NATION

Navy commissions anti-submarine warfare vessel 'Androth' in Vizag

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Tata Capital launches 2025's biggest IPO of Rs 15,512 cr

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Court must keep its hands off in sports-related matters: SC

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SALAR
DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

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BIHAR TO VOTE ON 6 & 11 NOV

Elections will be held in 2 phases as parties battle for 243 seats after the heated SIR row

QUOTE of THE DAY

"Regarding the Lingayat religion, as people voluntarily declare their religion, we will write what they say their religion is during the survey... The people's stance is my stance."

SIDDARAMAIAH,
Chief Minister of Karnataka

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Bihar will go to polls in two phases on 6 and 11 Nov and votes will be counted on 14 Nov to decide the fate of the ruling NDA government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the challenge posed by the Opposition bloc comprising the RJD and Congress among others.

Over 7.4 crore electors will cast their votes across 243 Assembly constituencies.

The election in the politically important state this time has a third force in the form of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, while a Special Intensive Review (SIR), which Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar repeatedly described as "shuddhikaran" (purification), of the voter list has already charged up the electoral process.

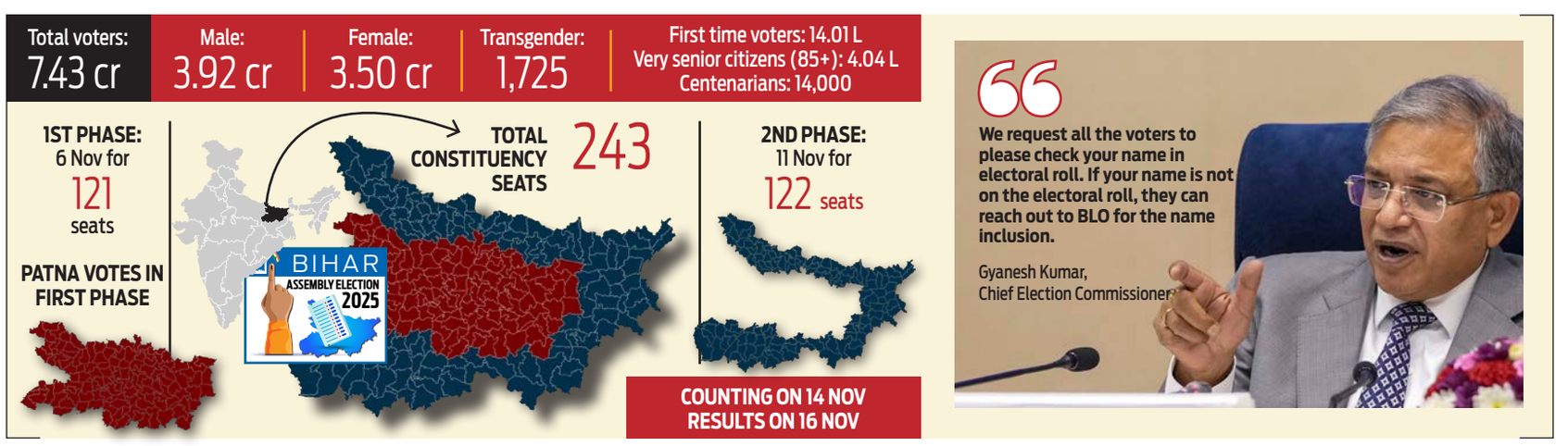
Kumar said nearly 69 lakh names have been deleted since the start of the SIR of electoral rolls, but refused to answer specific questions on how many deletions happened due to non-citizenship. He said the ECI would soon take a call on the nationwide rollout of the SIR, despite stiff protests from Opposition parties.

Responding to a question about women voters wearing a burqa and a veil (ghunghat), Kumar said, "Our anganwadi workers will be deployed at all polling booths for verifying the identity of burqa-clad women."

The ECI also announced that the voting for assembly bypolls in eight constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Telangana's Banjara Hhills will be held on 11 November.

The dates have set the stage for a tense political showdown. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said Bihar will vote for change and "every Bihari will be the CM," while Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the NDA pulled Bihar out of "Jungle Raj". —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 3, 5


Total voters: 7.43 cr
Male: 3.92 cr
Female: 3.50 cr
Transgender: 1,725
First time voters: 14.01 L
Very senior citizens (85+): 4.04 L
Centenarians: 14,000
1ST PHASE: 6 Nov for 121 seats
PATNA VOTES IN FIRST PHASE
TOTAL CONSTITUENCY SEATS 243
BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2025
2ND PHASE: 11 Nov for 122 seats
COUNTING ON 14 NOV
RESULTS ON 16 NOV

We request all the voters to please check your name in electoral roll. If your name is not on the electoral roll, they can reach out to BLO for the name inclusion.
Gyanesh Kumar,
Chief Election Commissioner

Car runs over baby boy in City while reversing

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

An 11-month-old baby died after being accidentally run over by a car in City on Monday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Azaan, they said. The incident was reported at 9.45am at a house on Magadi Road. Citing preliminary investigation, a senior police officer said the house owner was reversing his car and failed to see the tenant's baby, who came from behind the vehicle, and accidentally ran over him. The driver immediately rushed the baby to the hospital for treatment, but he succumbed to injuries, the officer said. A case was registered, and investigation is underway. —*PTI*

SC issues notice to Centre over Wangchuk's arrest

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The Supreme Court of India has issued a notice to the Centre and the Union Territory of Ladakh regarding a writ petition filed by Gitanjali J Angmo, the wife of activist Sonam Wangchuk. She is challenging her husband's detention under the National Security Act (NSA) and seeking his immediate release. A bench comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria scheduled the case for hearing on 14 Oct, stating, "Something has been done for now."

Wangchuk was detained on 26 Sept following violent protests in Ladakh calling for statehood and Sixth Schedule status, which resulted in four deaths and 90 injuries. The government accused him of inciting violence.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal requested that grounds for Wangchuk's detention be provided to his wife, while Solicitor General Tushar Mehta stated that there is no legal obligation for such grounds to be shared with her.

Angmo's also alleged that Wangchuk was transferred to Jodhpur jail without access to medical care or communication with family.

The court has ordered that Wangchuk's medical needs be met according to prison regulations. —*PTI*

6 die in blaze at Jaipur govt hospital's ICU

JAIPUR, 6 OCT

A massive fire blazed through the neuro ICU of Jaipur's state-run Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital in the dead of the night, killing six patients on critical care support, officials said on Monday. The fire, which erupted in the storage area around midnight, is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit.

The trauma centre building is located opposite the main hospital building on Tonk Road. The fire broke out in a store room of an ICU on the second floor of the Trauma Centre, where 11 patients were admitted. The flames spread fast and rescuers could pull out only five patients.

A second ICU on the same floor had 14 patients, and all of them were shifted to safer places.

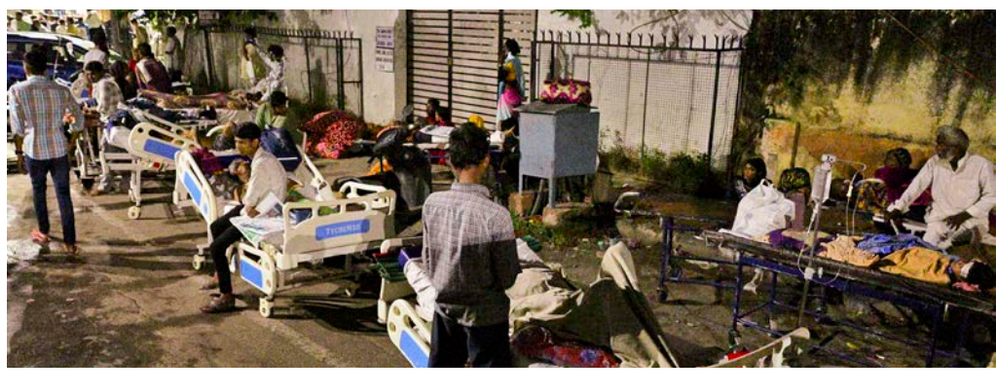
The state government has constituted a committee to investigate the causes of the fire and the hospital's response. The committee is tasked with reviewing the fire safety measures, the evacuation process and the role of the hospital management during the emergency.

At the same time, Jaipur police has formed a committee comprising experts from police, FSL and the fire department to investigate the incident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences over the tragedy on X, while Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma visited the hospital.

However, families alleged that the fire broke out because of negligence. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4



Patients wait with their family members on a road after a fire burnt ICU of the state-run Sawai Man Singh Hospital, late Sunday night, in Jaipur ***PHOTO: PTI***

Israel deports Greta, 171 activists to Greece, Slovakia

JERUSALEM, 6 OCT

Israeli authorities said Monday that they have deported to Greece and Slovakia another 171 people detained for taking part in a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, including Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. Israel's Foreign Ministry posted on X that "the deportees were citizens of Greece, Italy, France, Ireland, Sweden, Poland, Germany, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Austria, Luxembourg, Finland, Denmark, Slovakia, Switzerland, Norway, the UK, Serbia, and the US." The post included photos of Thunberg and other activists wearing white T-shirts and gray sweatpants. Lubna Tuma, a lawyer representing more than 470 Global Sumud Flotilla activists who were detained last week, said that 150 people were still being held. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

3 scientists get Nobel in medicine for work on immune system

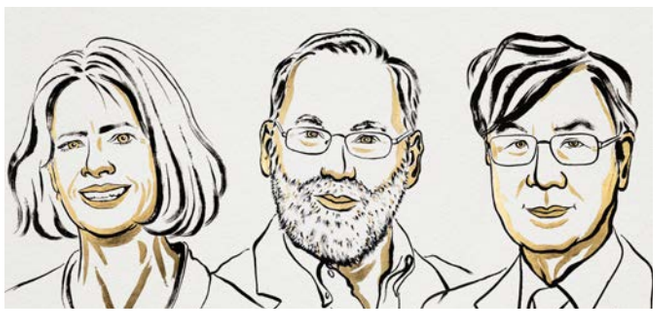
STOCKHOLM, 6 OCT

Mary E Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Dr Shimon Sakaguchi won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.

Brunkow, 64, is a senior program manager at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle. Ramsdell, 64, is a scientific adviser for Sonoma Biotherapeutics in San Francisco. Sakaguchi, 74, is a distinguished professor at the Immunology Frontier Research Centre at Osaka University in Japan.

The Nobel winners unravelled way the body keeps the immune system in check.

The Nobel Committee said it started with Sakaguchi's discovery in 1995 of a previously unknown T cell subtype now known as regulatory T cells or T-regs. Then, in 2001, Brunkow and Ramsdell discovered a culprit mutation in a gene named Foxp3, a gene that also plays a role in a rare human autoimmune disease.



Mary E Brunkow/Fred Ramsdell/Shimon Sakaguchi ***PHOTO: NOBEL***

The Nobel Committee said two years later, Sakaguchi linked the discoveries to show that the Foxp3 gene controls the development of those T-regs, which in turn act as a security guard to find and curb other forms of T cells that overreact.

The award is the first of the 2025 Nobel Prize announcements in Stockholm. —*PTI*

NHRC sends notices to 3 states on cough syrup deaths

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The NHRC on Monday issued notices to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh governments, directing them to probe allegations of children's deaths due to contaminated cough syrup and immediately ban the sale of spurious medicines.

It has also directed the Union health ministry, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and the Directorate General of Health Services to order an investigation into the supply of spurious drugs and instruct all regional labs in states to collect the samples of spurious drugs and submit test reports.

"The authority is also directed to order all the Chief Drugs Controllers in the concerned states to process immediately banning of the spurious drugs and submit reports," the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said in a notice.

Twelve children died after allegedly consuming adulterated cough syrup in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

Cough syrup banned for kids under 2: K'taka

The Karnataka Health Department on Monday issued an advisory to healthcare institutions in the state not to prescribe or dispense cough and cold syrups to children below the age of two.

>>>More on Page 2

Indian-origin man shot dead in US after asking, 'are you ok?'

PENNSYLVANIA, 6 OCT

A fifty-one-year-old Indian-origin motel manager Rakesh Ehagaban, was shot dead at point-blank range in Pittsburgh of Pennsylvania last week. The shooting occurred after Ehagaban stepped outside the Pittsburgh Motel in Robinson Township to investigate a disturbance. According to a police complaint, the suspect, 37-year-old Stanley Eugene West, shot Ehagaban in the head as he approached with concern, asking, "Are you alright, bud?"

Ehagaban died at the scene. West also shot a female companion who was trying to leave the motel, hitting her in the neck while a child in the back seat escaped unharmed.

The woman is in critical condition. When police West's van, he engaged them in a gunfight. —*Agencies*

WB flood toll rises to 28

DARJEELING/SILIGURI/ KOLKATA, 6 OCT

The death toll from severe landslides and floods in northern West Bengal has risen to 28, with rescue operations ongoing for several missing individuals and thousands of tourists stranded in isolated areas. North Bengal Development Minister Udayan Guha warned that the toll may continue to increase, citing continuous rainfall as a hindrance to rescue efforts.

"The situation remains extremely challenging. We have reports of 28 fatalities, with bodies recovered overnight," he stated, noting that the deaths occurred in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the devastation as "man-made" and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for victims' families, along with a home guard job for one member of each bereaved family.

The worst-affected areas include Mirik, Sukhiapokhri, and Jorebunglow. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 4, 5

'DON'T INSULT SANATAN DHARMA'

Lawyer throws shoe at CJI over Vishnu remarks

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

In a shocking breach of decorum, a 71-year-old lawyer allegedly attempted to hurl a shoe towards Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai during court proceedings on Monday. The CJI kept calm and carried on.

The incident could be linked to the lawyer's unhappiness over the CJI's remarks during a hearing last month concerning the restoration of a Vishnu idol in Khajuraho, but police are probing the matter to ascertain the exact cause.

During the hearing, Gavai had told the petitioner to "ask the deity to do something."

On Monday, the lawyer, Rakesh Kishor, 71, approached the dais, when a bench comprising the CJI and Justice K Vinod Chandran was hearing the mentioning of cases by lawyers, removed his shoe and threw it at Gavai.

"Don't get distracted by all this. We are not distracted. These things do not affect me," the CJI, unfazed and continued the proceedings.

Security personnel inside the courtroom then intervened.

As he was being taken away, Kishor shouted, "Sanatan ka apman nahi sahenge" (will not tolerate insults to Sanatan Dharma).

Notably, Gavai is from the Dalit community.

The Bar Council of India ordered the immediate suspension of Kishore.

The matter triggered massive backlash, with bar bodies and lawyers associations calling it "reprehensible" while politicians and activists called it an "attack on the Constitution" and a "reflection of hatred" and "communal" and casteist"

The Supreme Court Bar Association expressed its "shock, outrage, and unequivocal condemnation" over what a "reprehensible act". —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

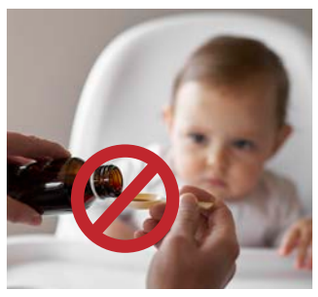
The attack.... has angered every Indian. There is no place for such reprehensible acts in our society. It is utterly condemnable.
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

This incident is a stark reminder that caste-based prejudice and Manuvaadi mindsets continue to persist—even 75 years after the enactment of the Constitution.
Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Cough syrups banned for kids below 2: Govt

The substandard cough syrup that killed 14 children has not entered the State yet

BENGALURU, 6 OCT



In the wake of multiple child deaths reported from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan linked to cough and cold syrups, the Karnataka Health Department has issued a strict advisory against prescribing or dispensing such medications to children under the age of two.

The advisory, issued on 5 October by the Food Safety and Drugs Administration (FSDA), specifically warns healthcare institutions, stockists, and retailers against the purchase or sale of Coldrif Syrup (Batch No. SR-13) manufactured in Tamil Nadu and Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide Syrup IP made by Kaysons Pharma, Jaipur. Tamil Nadu has already banned the sale and distribution of the implicated Coldrif batch.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the Health Department to investigate the matter, while Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao confirmed that the substandard syrups involved in the deaths have not entered Karnataka's supply chain. He assured that no such incidents have been reported in the state and that samples of all cough syrup brands are now being collected and tested as a precaution.

The government has directed all healthcare providers, both public and private, to strictly avoid prescribing or dispensing cough and cold syrups to children under two years. For children aged two to five, such medications should be given only when clearly indicated and after thorough clinical evaluation.

For older children, the advisory recommends that cough syrups, if needed, be prescribed in the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration, while discouraging multi-drug or irrational combinations.

Healthcare professionals have been instructed to follow Standard Treatment Protocols, IMNCI guidelines, and prioritise non-pharmacological care, including hydration, nutrition, and rest.

The Health Department has also urged all facilities to procure drugs only from GMP-compliant licensed manufacturers, and warned of random inspections to ensure compliance.

Any suspected syrup-related toxicity, death, or rise in unexplained paediatric cough cases must be promptly reported on the IHIP portal under the IDSP.

Violations, including irrational prescriptions or over-the-counter sales, will attract penalties under the KPME Act, 2007 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. —*PTI*

FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

Karnataka Municipal Water Supply employees protest at Freedom Park demanding direct recruitment and salary payments from the State government, on Monday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Describing Lingayatism as the true religion of equality and human values, the gathering of seers called for unity among sub-castes **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Lingayats push for separate religion status

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

- Among the five resolutions passed was a renewed call to raise awareness for religious recognition of Lingayats, highlighting their identity from mainstream Hinduism

The Lingayat community has once again reignited its demand for separate religion status, with several seers and leaders pushing the agenda at the valedictory event of the 'Basava Culture Campaign–2025', organised by the Lingayat Matadeeshara Okkoota on Sunday.

Among the five resolutions passed was a renewed call to raise awareness for religious recognition of Lingayats, highlighting their distinct identity from mainstream Hinduism. "All Lingayats are Indians first. Lingayat religion is the religion of Kannada. Country comes before religion," read one resolution. It urged continued efforts to secure government benefits and reservation status similar to those granted to Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs.

Describing Lingayatism as the true religion of equality and human values, the gathering called for unity among sub-castes and the upliftment of backward sections within the community. However, the event also exposed deep divisions, as BJP leaders and members of the Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha stayed away. The 2018 Congress government's recommendation to grant separate religion status had sparked controversy, contributing to its electoral losses, particularly in Lingayat-dominated constituencies.

The community remains divided, with one section maintaining that Lingayats and Veerashaivas are the same, while another asserts that Lingayats are distinct, and Veerashaivas are a Shaivite sect within Hinduism.

No force can separate Veerashaiva-Lingayats: Eshwar Khandre

Speaking separately at Vidhana Soudha, Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre asserted that "no force can separate Veerashaiva-Lingayats."

Quoting the revered Shivakumara Swamiji, Khandre said both identities are synonymous. "If Veerashaiva-Lingayats progress, the state progresses. If they decline, the state declines," he added.

He stressed that while geographically Hindus, the community has long sought separate religious recognition, a demand that dates back to pre-Independence and was highlighted during the 2000 census. —*Salar News*

Villagers quit survey, demand mobile tower

SHIVAMOGGA, 6 OCT

Villagers from Barur Gram Panchayat in Karnataka's Shivamogga district are refusing to participate in the ongoing caste survey, demanding the installation of a mobile network tower first.

The Social and Educational Survey, which began on 22 September and ends on 7 October, has faced resistance from residents of Barur, Kallukoppa, Theppagodu, and Mulukeri villages. Locals claim they have been requesting network infrastructure for over three years without response.

"We're not against the survey, but basic connectivity is our right," said Shashikumar, a local resident. He criticised officials for asking villagers to come to the panchayat office instead of conducting door-to-door surveys as instructed by the government.

The protest was temporarily called off after the Sagar Tahsildar assured villagers their demands would be addressed within three days in coordination with BSNL. —*ANI*

'Those against egalitarianism don't want survey'

KOPPAL/BENGALURU, 6 OCT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday defended the ongoing Social and Educational Survey, popularly known as the caste survey, asserting that those opposed to an egalitarian society are making "misleading statements" against it.

"Without data, how will we understand the social, educational, and financial status of people? This survey is essential," he told reporters in Koppal. He dismissed allegations that the exercise aims to suppress upper castes. "There's no question of suppression. Those resisting social change are the ones opposing the survey."

The survey, conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, began on 22 September and is scheduled to conclude on 7 October. By Sunday, 1.10 crore households — about 63 per cent, had been covered.

Siddaramaiah said a decision on extending the deadline will be taken after reviewing coverage on Tuesday.

Home Minister G Parameshwara echoed this, saying the Chief Minister will consult officials and district-wise data before deciding on extension. "Around 70–80 per cent of the state has been covered. With an extension of three to four days, the rest can be completed," he said in Bengaluru.

Parameshwara acknowledged technical glitches and enumerator issues but said these are common in such large-scale exercises. He urged political leaders and citizens to cooperate, noting that opinions from leaders like D K Shivakumar and V Somanna should not derail the process. —*PTI*

Waqf boards want regional languages in UMEED portal

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

The Waqf boards from southern states on Monday urged the Centre to make the UMEED (Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development) portal available in regional languages during a review meeting held here. Representatives from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana participated in the meeting organised by the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. Since its launch in June, all Waqf Boards have been mandated to upload details of Waqf properties within six months. Officials from the Ministry of Minority Affairs responded positively, assuring that the portal would be updated to support multiple languages and made user-friendly —*PTI*

ED attaches 34 MUDA properties worth ₹40cr

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 34 immovable properties, including prime sites owned by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), with a market value of Rs 40.08 crore. The Bengaluru Zonal Office carried out the action under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, as part of an ongoing investigation into the large-scale MUDA scam, which has drawn nationwide attention.

The probe began after an FIR was registered by the Lokayuktha Police in Mysore, uncovering a network of money laundering and the routing of undue gratification obtained by former MUDA Commissioner GT Dinesh Kumar, who was arrested last month. Investigators found that Kumar allegedly used the illicit funds to acquire immovable properties in the names of relatives and associates, circumventing official processes.

The illegal allotment of 31 MUDA sites were carried out in gross violation of Karnataka's urban development rules and government orders. ED searches also exposed a nexus between MUDA officials and real estate businessmen, including evidence of cash payments made to secure unlawful site allotments and layout approvals.

With this, ED has attached total proceeds of crime in the case valued at Rs 440 crore, striking a significant blow to the corruption network. Kumar remains in judicial custody as authorities continue tracing additional assets linked to the scam. —*ANI*

Bhadravathi cop injured in Ganesha immersion clash

BHADRAVATHI, 6 OCT

A police officer sustained serious head injuries after being attacked during a Ganesha idol immersion procession in Bhadravathi town on Sunday.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Yallappa of Paper Town Police Station was assaulted while trying to control a clash between two rival groups. Police said the ASI was hit from behind with a wooden plank, resulting in severe injuries to his head.

This reportedly stemmed from a long-standing rivalry between the two groups. Amid the chaos, former Gram Panchayat president Krishnegowda and his wife were also assaulted.

ASI Yallappa received initial treatment at Bhadravathi Taluk Hospital and was later shifted to a private hospital in Shivamogga for specialised care. —*Salar News*

BJP delusion about Nov revolution: CM

BENGALURU/KOPPAL, 6 OCT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan flag off 68 electric vehicles for the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board at Vidhana Soudha on Monday **PHOTO: SALAR**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday dismissed speculation about a possible leadership change later this year, calling the so-called "November Kranti" a "delusion". Speaking from Koppal, he reaffirmed his commitment to completing a full five-year term, noting that he has already served 2.5 years in his second term and will remain in office for the remainder.

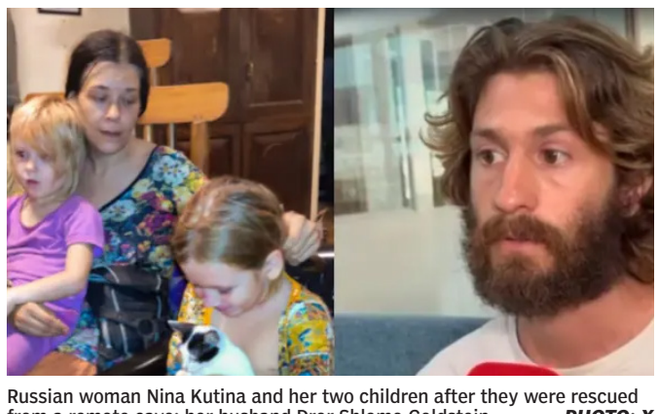
Home Minister G Parameshwara supported Siddaramaiah's statement, stressing that there is no confusion within the government or the ruling Congress. "The chief minister himself has said he will be in the post for five years. There ends the matter," Parameshwara told reporters, adding that media focus on internal opinions had unnecessarily amplified speculation. The debate over a rotational chief minister formula involving Deputy CM DK Shivakumar has persisted since the May 2023 Assembly polls, but there has been no official confirmation.

Meanwhile, Parameshwara addressed the ongoing Dharmasthala case, in which a Special Investigation Team (SIT) is probing allegations of multiple murders, rapes, and burials. He said the SIT has been asked to complete the probe, although no strict deadline has been set due to ongoing forensic analyses. Recent operations recovered skeletal remains at multiple locations along the Netravathi River and Banglegudde forest. The minister said all procedures are being followed and the final report would be submitted soon. —*PTI*

'WHAT WERE YOU DOING?'

SC chides man whose wife, kids lived in cave

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT



Russian woman Nina Kutina and her two children after they were rescued from a remote cave; her husband Dror Shlomo Goldstein **PHOTO: X**

The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on an Israeli businessman living in Goa, questioning his whereabouts and intentions after he sought to stop the repatriation of two minor girls and their Russian mother who were rescued from a forest in Karnataka in July.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi reprimanded the petitioner, Dror Shlomo Goldstein, asking, "What were you doing in Goa when your children were living in a cave?" The court also questioned whether he had valid documents to live in India, suggesting he was misusing the country as a "safe haven."

Goldstein claimed to be the father of the two girls, aged six and five, who were found with their Russian mother, Nina Kutina, living in Ramatirtha Hills, Gokarna. All three lacked valid documents and were moved to a Foreigners' Restriction Centre. The Karnataka High Court on September 26 had ordered their repatriation to Russia, which Goldstein challenged in the Supreme Court.

The bench dismissed the petition as "publicity litigation," citing Goldstein's failure to present any official proof of paternity. Facing the court's disapproval, his counsel withdrew the plea.

- The bench of Justices reprimanded the petitioner, Dror Shlomo Goldstein, asking, "What were you doing in Goa when your children were living in a cave?"

The high court noted that Kutina wished to return to Russia and had been issued emergency travel documents valid till 9 October. The Russian consulate supported her return, and DNA evidence confirmed the children's citizenship. The SC's rebuke underscores the seriousness of cross-border custody claims and the welfare of children. —*PTI*

Thousands witness Chamundeshwari Rathotsava at Chamundi Hills

MYSURU, 6 OCT

Devotees watch Chamundeshwari Rathotsava **PHOTO: SALAR**

The annual Chamundeshwari Rathotsava was celebrated with grandeur atop Chamundi Hills on Monday, drawing thousands of devotees from across the state.

Members of the Mysuru royal family, including Pramoda Devi Wadiyar and Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, participated in the event.

All rituals, Mantapotsava, Bhavanotsava, and Hamsavahanotsava, were performed during the Vrishchika Lagna between 9.36am and 9.58am. Yaduveer Wadiyar initiated the Rathotsava by performing poojas, before ceremoniously pulling the flower-adorned chariot carrying the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari.

The chariot procession around the temple was marked by a 21-gun salute from the Armed Police, fireworks, and vibrant folk performances including dollu kunitha, nagari, and tamate.

Devotees participated in the Hannu Javanatti ritual, pulling the chariot. The temple was then opened for darshan, allowing devotees to seek blessings from the deity. —*Salar News*

SIR, migration key agendas in Bihar polls

BJP-led NDA wants to beat incumbency to wrest Bihar as it accuses INDIA bloc of backing infiltrators

PATNA, 6 OCT

The stage is set for a high-stakes battle in Bihar, as voters prepare to decide the fate of the state's 243 constituencies in the November Assembly elections.

The Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, on Monday announced that polling will be held in two phases, 6 and 11 November, with counting of votes on 14 November.

PHASE 1:
121 constituencies
- Last date for nominations: 17 October
- Scrutiny: 18 October
- Withdrawal: 20 October

PHASE 2:
122 constituencies
- Last date for nominations: 20 October
- Scrutiny: 21 October
- Withdrawal: 23 October

Kumar described the Bihar polls as the 'mother of all elections' and emphasised that postal ballots must be counted before the final rounds of vote counting. Key issues set to shape polls

The elections are expected to revolve around unemployment, migration, caste-based reservations, and the long-standing demand for Special Status for Bihar (SIR).

CONTENDERS
- NDA: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, BJP, and allies Jitan Ram Manjhi, Chirag Paswan, Upendra Kushwaha.
- Mahagathbandhan/INDIA bloc: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Congress combine, CPI(ML) Liberation, other-partners.

ELECTION AGENDAS
- Special Intensive Revision: It will be the core issue in the polls as INDIA bloc leaders have been continuously accusing the Election Commission of indulging in 'Vote theft', even though the poll panel has categorically denied the charge.
- The Opposition may attack NDA over law and order, while the government insists the situation is under control. It was also target youth migration due to limited job opportunities.
- NDA to highlight recent welfare measures and governance achievements
- Special Status for Bihar: Opposition will criticise NDA for unfulfilled promises, despite the JD(U)'s alliance with the BJP at the Centre.
- Quotas and caste-based reservations may revive the 'Mandal versus Kamandal" debate.

Analysts suggest unemployment, migration, and SIR will dominate voter sentiment, making these elections a crucial test of political influence in the state. —*PTI*

After repeated election defeats, 'united' INDIA eyes resurgence

PATNA, 6 OCT

The RJD-Congress-led INDIA bloc, which ran a fiery 'vote chori' campaign alleging BJP of manipulation of votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, will face a direct contest with the ruling NDA.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF INDIA BLOC:
Strengths:
- RJD commands a loyal Muslim-Yadav (MY) vote base, roughly 30% of the electorate.
- Lalu Prasad's son Tejashwi Yadav, former deputy CM, is projected as the party's undisputed leader and resonates strongly with youth.
- Congress' Voter Adhikar Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, has energised party workers statewide.

Weaknesses:
- RJD remains largely controlled by Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi, and family, many under legal scrutiny, including the ED's land-for-jobs investigation.
- Tejashwi's leadership is occasionally disrupted by family disputes, forcing attention on internal matters over alliance management.

Opportunities:
- Tejashwi's youth offers a chance for the bloc to revamp its image, emphasising job creation, migration, and law-and-order issues.
- The bloc can leverage its 'Mandal' credentials and quota gains from past caste surveys.
- Alliances with Congress, CPI(ML) Liberation, Nitish Kumar's abrupt return to NDA and support from Muslim voters could consolidate a strong electoral base for RJD and its allies.

Threats:
- Long periods out of power and internal party ambitions pose challenges for cohesion and effective alliance management. —*PTI*

With Nitish as ally, NDA hopes 'Modi magic' will work in Bihar

PATNA, 6 OCT

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by JD(U) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is aiming for another term, while the INDIA bloc, comprising Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Congress, and other Opposition parties, seeks to unseat the ruling coalition in next month's Assembly elections.

Observers say Kumar's two decades of governance and welfare initiatives give NDA an edge.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF NDA:
Strengths:
- Leadership of Nitish Kumar, an engineer-turned-politician and the state's longest-serving chief minister, widely known for his focus on 'sushasan' (good governance).
- Popular welfare schemes including 125 units of free electricity for domestic consumers, Rs 10,000 aid to 75 lakh women, supply of potable water in rural areas and infrastructure projects.
- Organised cadre base via JD(U), BJP, and RSS affili
- Recent development initiatives by PM Narendra Modi.

Weaknesses:
- Long tenure has reduced novelty; anti-incumbency risk. BJP is still largely perceived as upper-caste-centric in a diverse state.

Opportunities:
- BJP can fill the leadership vacuum as Nitish's second-rung leaders remain weak.

Threats:
- Induction of turncoats is seen as a 'polluting influence' by those in BJP.
- Hindutva focus may alienate Muslims, including Pasmanda voters crucial to NDA's base.

Political analysts note that while NDA relies on Kumar's experience, opposition strategies targeting caste dynamics, unemployment, and law-and-order issues could influence voter behaviour. —*PTI*

PRASHANT KISHOR TO CONTEST POLLS

Jan Suraaj Party Founder Prashant Kishor on Monday announced that he would contest in Bihar and the list of his party's candidates will be declared on 9 October.

The former poll strategist, however, did not disclose the name of the constituency from where he will contest.

Asked about the winning possibility of Jan Suraaj Party, Kishor claimed that his party would get votes of 28 per cent voters who neither voted for the NDA nor INDIA bloc. People are saying that Jan Suraaj Party will decisively damage votes of both NDA and INDIA bloc, he added. —*PTI*

AFTER LOSING DELHI, AAP TO ENTER BIHAR & CONTEST ALL 243 SEATS

PATNA, 6 OCT

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday announced it will contest all 243 Bihar Assembly seats, releasing its first list of 11 candidates.

Addressing a press conference, AAP state in-charge Ajesh Yadav said, "We have an approved model of growth and governance. The work done by AAP is being discussed across the country. People from Purvanchal helped us form a government in Delhi; why not Bihar?"

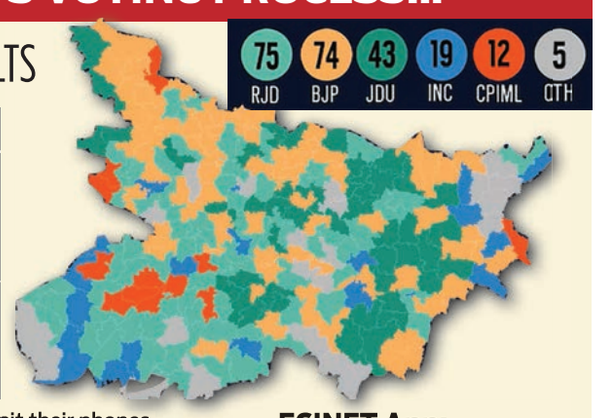
The candidates include Meera Singh (Begusarai), Bhanu Bhartiya (Kasba), Arun Kumar Rajak (Phulwari), Pankaj Kumar (Bankipur), Ashok Kumar Singh (Govindganj), and Retd Capt Dharmraj Singh (Buxar).

State co-incharge Abhinav Rai ruled out alliances with existing political blocs. "Our alliance is with the people of Bihar," he said.

Yadav highlighted AAP's achievements in education, healthcare, and welfare in Delhi and Punjab and said a list of star campaigners, including Arvind Kejriwal, Sanjay Singh, and Bhagwant Mann, will be announced soon. —*PTI*

EC REVAMPS VOTING PROCESS...

2020 ELECTION RESULTS



Observers introduced

243 observers will be appointed. They observes will work as the "eyes and ears" of ECI.

38 'police observers'.

67 'expenditure observers'.

Other changes

VVPAT slips will be used to count any mismatches.

Each constituency will have Digital Index Cards with voter statistics.

Booth-level officers carrying identity cards for easy recognition.

Phone counter: Each booth will have phone counters where voters will have to submit their phones.

Each polling stations will have maximum of 1,200 voters.

All 90,712 BLOs to carry ID cards.

100% webcasting of polling booths.

EPIC cards delivered within 15 days of registration under a new SOP.

ECINET App:

The app synthesises 40 apps and merges them into one. It provides:

Real-time monitoring: Tracks voter registration, polling arrangements, counting, etc.

Voters can use the app to resolve grievances.

Voters can also contact Helpline no:
+91 (STD code) 1950

8 SEATS IN 7 STATES INCLUDING J&K TO VOTE IN BYPOLLS ON 11 NOV

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Voting for Assembly bypolls in eight constituencies across Jammu and Kashmir, Odisha, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Punjab, Telangana, and Rajasthan will be held on 11 November, with counting on 14 November, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced on Monday.

Two seats in J-K, Budgam and Nagrota, have been vacant since October 2024. Budgam fell vacant after CM Omar Abdullah retained the Ganderbal constituency on 21 October, while Nagrota became vacant following the death of MLA Devender Singh Rana on 31 October.

Reasons why other constituencies going to bypolls:

- **Rajasthan (Anta):** BJP MLA Kanwarlal disqualified in May after conviction in a gun threat case.
- **Telangana (Jubilee Hill):** BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath passed away in June.
- **Mizoram (Dampa):** MNF legislator Lalrintluanga Sailo died on 21 July.
- **Odisha (Nuapada):** Sitting MLA Rajendra Dholakia passed away on 8 September.
- **Jharkhand (Ghatsila):** Seat vacant following the death of Ramdas Soren.
- **Punjab (Tarn Taran):** Vacancy arose after the death of Kashmir Singh Sohal.

Speaking at the press conference, Kumar said, "The Assembly bypolls will be conducted in a free and fair manner, and counting of postal ballots will precede the final rounds of counting."

The Election Commission has initiated preparations to ensure smooth polling across all states, including deployment of security and electronic voting systems. —*PTI*

PMK founder S Ramadoss hospitalised

CHENNAI, 6 OCT

S Ramadoss, 86, founder of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), was admitted to a corporate hospital on 5 October for a routine cardiac evaluation. Sources confirmed his condition is stable, and he is expected to be discharged after the necessary checks.

The visit saw an unusual reconciliation as his son, Anbumani Ramadoss, visited him for the first time since their rift began last December. The disagreement had led to Dr S Ramadoss stripping his son of the party president post, although Anbumani maintains he still holds the position as ratified by the Election Commission. The PMK has appealed to its members not to panic. —*PTI*

KERALA HC INTERVENES

SIT to probe reduced weight of gold-clad plates at Sabarimala

KOCHI, 6 OCT

The Kerala High Court on Monday directed the formation of a special investigation team (SIT) to probe alleged irregularities related to the reduced weight of gold-clad copper plates of the Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) idols at Sabarimala.

The court ordered the constitution of SIT after the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) Vigilance team submitted an interim report on its preliminary investigation into the matter.

Earlier, the court had directed the vigilance team to investigate the reduced weight of Dwarapalakas after they were sent to a Chennai-based firm for electroplating, which was sponsored by businessman Unnikrishnan Potty in 2019.

PHOTO: PTI

The SIT will be led by superintendent of police S Sasidharan and its functioning will be supervised by additional director general of police, H Venketesh.

Officials from the Cyber Police have also been included in the team.

The high court ordered that the investigation be conducted confidentially and that reports be submitted directly to it.

The court had ordered a comprehensive inventory of all valuables, including gold, at the Sabarimala temple under the supervision of retired Justice KT Sankaran.

Devaswom Minister VN Vasavan welcomed the Kerala

Mob beats up BJP MP & MLA in flood-hit WB

NAGRAKATA, 6 OCT

West Bengal's BJP MP Khagen Murmu and MLA Sankar Ghosh were injured in a mob attack during their visit to the flood- and landslide-affected Dooars region, sparking a renewed political controversy.

The incident, which took place near Bamandanga in the Jalpaiguri district in the state, saw a crowd surround the BJP leaders, chanting "Didi, Didi," and hurling stones at their convoy. Murmu sustained a head injury and was later treated in Siliguri.

Ghosh described the experience as "horrifying," asserting, "We had gone to check the people's condition... Khagenda was hit on the head." The BJP accused the Trinamool Congress (TMC) of orchestrating the violence, with Amit Malviya remarking, "This is TMC's Bengal, where cruelty rules and compassion is punished."

Injured BJP MP Khagen Murmu after he was attacked during a visit to the flood-affected Nagrakata area in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

In response, TMC leader Udayan Guha condemned the BJP's presence, labelling the incident "self-inflicted" and alleging that the BJP leaders came "just for photo-ops without a single relief item."—*PTI*

MGR's TN statue vandalised, EPS demands enquiry

MADURAI, 6 OCT

A statue of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and AIADMK leader MG Ramachandran (MGR) was vandalised by miscreants on Sunday night in Avaniyapuram near Madurai, police confirmed. In response, a large number of AIADMK cadres staged a protest demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible. Separate police teams have been formed to trace and apprehend the culprits. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami condemned the attack, calling it a "despicable act by cowards" who cannot challenge MGR's legacy. He asserted that the leader's fame and achievements cannot be diminished by such actions. Palaniswami urged the Tamil Nadu government and police to take swift action against the "anti-social elements" attempting to disrupt public peace. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Assam to bring bodies of those dying outside state

GUWAHATI, 6 OCT

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday launched the 'Shraddhanjali' scheme to facilitate the dignified return of mortal remains of people from Assam who die outside the state. "The Shraddhanjali scheme is an initiative to ensure that the bodies of our people who pass away elsewhere are brought home with dignity," Sarma said at the launch event in Guwahati.The scheme will be implemented by the Home and Political Department in coordination with Assam Police. It will not apply to financially well-off families or those capable of making their own arrangements. Patients who die while undergoing treatment outside the state are also excluded from the scheme's coverage. *—PTI*

J&K officer who barred criticism of govt removed

SRINAGAR, 6 OCT

The Chief Education Officer of Baramulla, Bashir Ahmad Shah, was removed from his post on Monday, two days after directing school staff to refrain from criticising government policies on social media. "Pending inquiry, Bashir Ahmad Shah, in charge CEO Baramulla, is hereby attached with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir with immediate effect," read an order from the School Education Department. The CEO of Bandipora will hold additional charge of Baramulla. Shah's circular had warned employees against 'unwarranted debates and discussions' online, cautioning that violations could invite disciplinary action. PDP leader Waheed Para criticised the directive.*—PTI*

Man wins Rs 25 cr Thiruvonam lottery in Kerala

ALAPPUZHA, 6 OCT

Sarath Nair, a resident of Thaikattussery, has won the Rs 25 crore first prize in the Thiruvonam Bumper lottery. He submitted the winning ticket, numbered 'TH 577825,' at the SBI Thuravoor Branch on Monday. The ticket was bought from a retail outlet owned by agent Latheesh. "I couldn't believe it when the results were announced on 3 October. I rechecked the ticket to be sure," Nair said. He added that it was his first time purchasing a bumper ticket. "I rarely buy lottery tickets," he said. Nair, who works at a paint shop, plans to continue his job. "I'll first clear my debts and discuss the rest with my family," he added. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Unnatural sex: Man held after charred body found

THRISSUR, 6 OCT

A 61-year-old man with a criminal past was arrested after a partially charred body was found in his rented room at Chowannur, police said on Monday. The accused, Sunny of Chowannur, had earlier been involved in two murder cases in 2003 and 2005. Police suspect the victim, yet to be identified, was killed following a dispute over unnatural sex. Sunny allegedly attacked the man and later set the room on fire using an inflammable liquid. CCTV footage showed Sunny bringing the victim home after meeting him at a liquor outlet. A case was registered. The body, believed to be of a 35-year-old man, was sent for postmortem.*—PTI*

Families allege negligence in Rajasthan hospital fire

Hospital staff didn't save patients after being alerted of fire

JAIPUR, 6 OCT

Charred remains of the trauma centre at the state-run Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital in Jaipur in Rajasthan after a fire broke out in the centre on the night of 5 October *PHOTO: PTI*

The families of the victims have accused the hospital staff of gross negligence over the tragic fire at the Sawai Man Singh Hospital's Trauma Centre here. The blaze, which broke out on 5 October, claimed the lives of six critically ill patients.

The fire broke out in a store room of an ICU on its second floor on 5 October, where 11 patients were admitted – six of whom died. A second ICU on the same floor had 14 patients, all of whom were evacuated in time.

Those who died were Pintu from Sikar, Dilip and Bahadur from Jaipur, Shrinath, Rukmini and Kusuma from Bharatpur.

The attendants of the patients, however, alleged that the hospital staff ignored early warnings regarding the blaze and fled as the fire spread. They also claimed that police personnel pushed them away as they tried to get updates on the condition of their loved ones.

"We noticed smoke and immediately informed the staff. When the fire broke out, they were the first to run," one of the attendants said.

On Monday, family members protested outside the facility and shouted slogans against the state government, as Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa and Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham visited the hospital.

"As soon as the smoke began to rise, we alerted the staff. It was not until 20 minutes later that the fire engulfed the entire ward. Instead of helping the patients, the hospital staff fled the scene," Omprakash, an attendant said.

"No one helped my mother. My elder brother grabbed a torch from the hospital staff, found our mother, and brought her out. We could not save her..," Jogendra, relative of a victim said. The fire, which broke out due to a suspected short circuit, quickly spread smoke and toxic gas. *—PTI*

8 arrested in violence over idol immersion in Cuttack

CUTTACK, 6 OCT

Eight people were arrested in connection with the violence that broke out in Cuttack in Odisha during the Durga Pooja immersion processions, leading to a 12-hour bandh backed by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP). The clashes saw locals protesting against loud music, escalating to the hurling of stones and glass bottles.

Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh confirmed, "Three cases were registered, and eight people were arrested following Sunday's attack on police by VHP activists."

With 1,800 state police and around 800 Central Armed Police personnel deployed, prohibitory orders were put in place across 13 of the city's 20 police station areas. "The situation is under control," Singh stated. However, several shops near Gourishankar Park were allegedly set ablaze amid the unrest, which left at least 25 people injured, including senior officers.Internet services were suspended. *—PTI*

The charred remains of carts and other objects after violence in Odisha's Cuttack *PHOTO: PTI*

The damaged Dudhia iron bridge after landslides and heavy rainfall, in Darjeeling in West Bengal on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

WB CM blames Damodar Valley Corp for floods

KOLKATA, 6 OCT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday called the floods and the ensuing destruction in north Bengal "man-made", and blamed the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for "unrestricted" release of water, resulting in overflowing rivers in the southern parts of the state.

Banerjee also announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of those who died in the floods and landslides, besides offering a job of home guard to one member of the bereaved families.

"We have so far received reports of 23 people who have died in the north Bengal floods....," she said before leaving for Bagdogra to oversee relief and rescue operations in the flood-ravaged areas of north Bengal.

Incessant rainfall in the upper reaches of the state over the last 48 hours have led to widespread flooding in the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduars and Cooch Behar. The Nagrakata area of the Dooars and the Mirik region in Darjeeling are the worst affected.

The state government arranged 45 buses to bring back stranded tourists from the flood-hit regions.

Banerjee also alleged that the Centre has not provided funds for flood relief measures.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Monday cut short his personal visit to Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and rushed to landslide-hit Darjeeling.

Bose would supervise the rescue operations and talk to the affected people. *—PTI*

TN govt advises schools on monsoon safety

CHENNAI, 6 OCT

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday advised managements of schools to take precautionary measures to protect the students during the monsoon, as schools across the state reopened after the quarterly exam vacation.The quarterly exams were held from September 10 to 26. Meanwhile, the state government will conduct admissions for the academic year 2025-26 from 6 to 17 October under the Right to Education Act, following the release of Rs 450 crore funds by the Centre. *—PTI*

Navy commissions anti-submarine warfare vessel 'Androth' in Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM, 6 OCT

The induction of the Androth will enhance the Navy's overall anti-submarine warfare capabilities in coastal and shallow waters *PHOTO: INDIAN NAVY*

The Indian Navy on Monday commissioned 'Androth', the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft during a ceremonial event at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam in

According to the Navy, the induction of Androth will enhance its overall Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capabilities, particularly for operations in coastal and shallow waters.

The event was presided over by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), in the presence of senior naval officers and shipyard representatives.

"The commissioning of Androth marks another major step in the Navy's ongoing efforts toward indigenisation and capability enhancement," said an official press release from the ENC. Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd built it. *—PTI*

UP cleric's aides get Rs 1.25 cr notice for power theft

BAREILLY, 6 OCT

Five associates of the controversial cleric Maulana Tauqeer Raza have received recovery notices exceeding Rs 1.25 crore for alleged power theft at illegal e-charging stations, officials confirmed on Monday.

Last week, a joint team conducted raids in the Baan Khana area, uncovering operations utilising stolen electricity.

An FIR has been registered, leading to the issuance of recovery certificates against the accused, including Wasim Khan with Rs 15.39 lakh, Monish Khan Rs 22.29 lakh, Barkaan Raza Khan Rs 37.32 lakh, Aman Raza Khan Rs 26.92 lakh, and Ghulam Navi Rs 26.57 lakh.

Following recent violence linked to Raza, authorities have intensified their actions, with demolitions of illegal properties. *—PTI*

Kerala bars Coldrif sale; MP officials suspended

BHOPAL/T'PURAM, 6 OCT

The Madhya Pradesh Government on Monday transferred the state's drug controller and suspended three officials amid the probe into the death of 14 children, while the Kerala Health Department ordered that no medicines should be given to children under 12 without a doctor's prescription.

Taking precautionary measures, some states ramped up actions to stop the consumption and supply of Coldrif cough syrup.

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration appealed to the people to stop the sale or use of Coldrif syrup.

The Telangana Government directed all district medical and health officers to sensitise public on the 'adulterated' cough syrup.

The Karnataka Government directed enforcement officers to maintain strict vigil over certain cough syrups following the reports of child deaths linked to their consumption.

The state government also suspended two drug inspectors and a deputy director of the food and drug administration.

Yadav visited Parasia to meet the kin of the deceased children. He said strict action will be taken against those responsible for the deaths.

The state police have formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the death of 14 children.

A doctor from Chhindwara has been arrested for alleged negligence, and a case registered against the Coldrif cough syrup manufacturing company

The MP Government has also banned the sale of Coldrif cough syrup, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceutical, Kancheepuram (Tamil Nadu), with officials saying the drug samples have been found to contain a highly toxic substance.

The Kerala Government said it has set up a three-member expert panel to study the use of cough medicines in children and asked it to submit a report urgently.

Its findings will help formulate new guidelines on cough syrup use in children.

Amid health concerns over the quality of cough syrups, the Health Ministry convened a high level meeting with all states and union territories to review compliance with drug quality norms. *—PTI*

Lawyers, leaders flay 'casteist' attack on CJI

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Lawyers, activists, and politicians rallied behind Chief Justice BR Gavai after a lawyer threw his shoe at the head of the Supreme Court during judicial proceedings. They termed it as stemming from hatred, an attack on the Constitution and "casteist". After hurling his shoe at the CJI, 71-year-old Rakesh Kishor shouted remarks relating to Sanatan Dharma. Senior advocate Indira Jaising called the episode "casteist" - Gavai is from the Dalit community. "I do consider it to be a casteist remark against the Chief Justice.... It requires a legal response from the Supreme Court of India," Jaising said. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta described the act as "unfortunate and condemnable", terming it a result of misinformation and an attempt at cheap publicity. Politicians echoed the condemnation. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi termed the assault an attack on the Constitution. "No words are adequate to condemn the attack on the CJI in the Supreme Court itself. It is an assault not just on him but on our Constitution," Gandhi said in a statement.

The Left parties accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of promoting "casteist, Manuvadi, and communal ideas", and said that it has emboldened such acts.

Telangana Chief Minister R Revanth Reddy called the attack on CJI gavai a dark day. NCP (SP) Chief Sharad Pawars called the incident an attack on the judiciary. *—PTI*

Pro-Palestine mime re-staged in Kerala school

KASARAGOD, 6 OCT

Students at Kumbala Government Higher Secondary School in Kerala re-staged a pro-Palestine mime show on Monday, a week after it was disrupted by teachers.

The performance, part of the school's arts festival, was allowed to continue following intervention by Education Minister V Sivankutty, who affirmed Kerala's support for Palestine.

Six students performed the mime under new guidelines, refraining from displaying the Palestine flag, though some audience members shouted pro-Palestine slogans. A performer said the aim was to highlight the suffering of Palestinians, not target anyone.

Meanwhile, BJP activists staged a protest near the school, demanding legal action over the use of foreign slogans.

Police prevented the protestors from entering the premises.

The Education Department has initiated a probe into the initial disruption by the teachers and submitted a report to the District Education Officer. The re-staging has been widely supported by students and local organisations. *—PTI*

INVITE VIA INSTA

Telangana rave party busted; 62, including 22 minors detained

HYDERABAD, 6 OCT

The operations were carried out by the special operations team based on vital information they received about the party *PHOTO: AI IMAGE*

Telangana Police conducted a raid on an alleged illegal party at a farmhouse within the Moinabad police station limit in Hyderabad, where a total of 62 members were present, including 22 minors.

The operation was carried out by the special operations team (SOT) based on vital information they received about the party.

The event, described as a 'Trap House Party' on Instagram, was held without prior official permission and reportedly promoted on social media.

Police officials said underage people consumed alcohol and narcotic substances during the gathering. Officers seized multiple bottles of foreign liquor from the venue and conducted blood tests on all present in the venue. When tested using a urine test kit, two participants, including the organiser, Ishaan, tested positive for ganja.

Preliminary investigation revealed that tickets priced at Rs 1,600 for singles and Rs 2,800 for couples were sold for entry to the drug party. The organiser had arranged such parties in the past. *—Agencies*

Bihar will test Nitish's hold, Oppn's unity & PK's debut

Bihar elections are likely to settle the debate on whether the opposition has finally found a potent political plank in its protest against SIR or it will be another non-starter for the alliance, as the ruling NDA looks to maintain its firm grip on a state which has stood by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar since 2005.

However, questions about his health have persisted and a popular verdict will clear the air on whether the JD(U) president continues to endure as the talismanic helmsman in the state's electoral battle or Tejashwi Yadav as the de facto face of the Opposition can trump the chief minister, a feat that eluded his charismatic father, Lalu Prasad Yadav.

Kumar leads a coalition, which includes a BJP more formidable than ever in the state, with a proven numerical advantage over the RJD-led combine that has the Congress and the Left as allies.

The two alliances, the NDA and Mahagathbandhan, have fortified their coalitions with new allies for the assembly election in which poll strategist-turned politician Prashant Kishor has emerged as the X factor with his assiduous campaign projecting his Jan Suraaj Party as an alternative to the traditional alliances.

The verdict will also be seen as a referendum on the Election Commission's Special Intensive Review of electoral rolls in the state, an exercise which drew an energetic protest campaign from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and backing from several regional satraps aligned with the main opposition party.

Whether the campaign against SIR, which the EC plans to roll out across the country, will be a boost to the Opposition or turn out to be a futile exercise unsupported by popular opinion, as believed by the ruling alliance, will be decided by the polls.

Gandhi had led a two-week-long "Voter Adhikar Yatra" in the state between August 17 and 1 September, but the jury remains out if his charges against the EC of "vote chori" in alleged collusion with the ruling alliance have found an echo outside the Opposition's support base.

The BJP-led NDA has maintained that the SIR is aimed at weeding out infiltrators, and the Opposition's campaign against it is driven by vote bank politics.

The assembly election in Bihar will be held in two phases, polling for which will be held on November 6 and 11, while the counting of votes will be on 14 November, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced earlier on Monday.

The RJD is the principal force in the Opposition and the BJP is seen to have emerged as the strongest NDA constituent in Bihar ahead of the Janata Dal (United), but both coalitions are beset with their own challenges.

Despite enjoying solid support from two biggest voting blocs, Muslims and Yadavs, the RJD-led coalition has been unable to draw enough support from other communities to turn the tide, with the BJP-JD(U) coalition being successful in reminding them of the perceived misrule during the RJD's government between 1990 and 2005 and the "good governance" of Kumar since to ensure continued popular support for him.

Except in 2015, when Kumar had joined hands with Lalu Prasad Yadav-led RJD, he has fought all assembly polls as part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Tejashwi Yadav has been trying to expand his coalition's social footprint, and the alliance is likely to give poll tickets to a large number of candidates from Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), which hold the balance of power and have more often than not backed the NDA, to ensure his party's return to power as the head of an alliance after 20 years.

A large chunk of the EBCs and numerically weaker Scheduled Castes have been central to Kumar's rise, besides Kushwahas and Kurmis, two of the most numerous Other Backward Classes after Yadavs. He himself hails from the Kurmi caste.

However, NDA leaders are confident that their winning social alliance will remain intact and are hopeful that a bevy of development projects and welfare measures centred on youths and women, including Rs 10,000 cash transfer to nearly one crore women, will keep popular support on their side.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's enduring appeal and Kumar's longstanding goodwill despite some erosion are being seen as other factors favouring their coalition.

People watch the live telecast as EC announces dates of Bihar Assembly elections, in Patna, on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Critics have claimed that Kumar is serving his last days as chief minister and the BJP will not continue with him at the helm even if the NDA were to win, prompting several BJP leaders to assert that he will be heading their next government as well.

In a state dominated by two political alliances for close to three decades, Kishor has woven a political idiom centred largely around substantive issues and alleged failures of dominant parties but without any attempt to build a social coalition around castes, a rite of passage for almost every successful political party.

His sharp takes, especially on alleged corruption of some NDA leaders, the groundwork for over three years and track record as a successful poll strategist have garnered him and his Jan Suraaj Party a limelight that will be the envy of his more accomplished rivals in the electoral arena.

It, however, remains to be seen if that proves enough to earn his fledgling outfit enough popular legitimacy in an already fractured political field crowded with numerous satraps.

Union minister Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), which had walked out of the NDA in the 2020 assembly polls and successfully damaged the JD(U)'s prospects in nearly three dozen seats, is now part of the ruling alliance, and so is former minister Upendra Kushwaha.

Kushwaha was heading another front that included Mayawati's BSP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM.

The NDA had pipped the RJD-Left-Congress combine to a majority in the 243-member assembly in 2020, with 125 seats against the rival's 110. Closer still was the vote gap as the NDA bagged 37.26 per cent votes against the mahagathbandhan's 37.23 per cent. Former minister Mukesh Sahni was with the NDA in 2020 but is now with the RJD, while Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi has remained in the ruling alliance.

The combination of the two main alliances was the same in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in which the NDA had won 30 of the 40 seats and the Opposition 10, including independent Pappu Yadav. *—PTI*

Key seats

Following are some of the key constituencies out of 121, which will go to polls in the first phase on 6 November, along with the party and the candidate representing the seats:

Raghopur:
RJD, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav

Begusarai:
BJP, Kundan Kumar

Khagaria:
Cong, Chhatrapati Yadav

Ujairpur:
RJD, Alok Kumar Mehta

Lakhisarai:
BJP, Vijay Kumar Sinha

Hilsa:
JD (U), Krishnamurari Sharan

Nalanda:
JD(U), Shrawon Kumar

Barh:
BJP, Gyanendra Kumar Singh

Patna Sahib:
BJP, Nand Kishore Yadav

Arrah:
BJP, Amrendra Pratap Singh

Shahpur:
RJD, Rahul Tiwary

Buxar:
Cong , Sanjay Kr. Tiwari

SALAR ساڈھ

The lynching of a 'drone thief' shocks Raebareli

A 40-year-old Dalit man was allegedly lynched by villagers in Raebareli who mistook him for a thief during a night vigil amid rumours that a gang was using drones for surveillance to mark houses for robberies, police said on Monday.

Five have been arrested in the case and three police personnel have been suspended for alleged negligence, they said, adding the accused come from different social backgrounds, including Dalits and backward castes, and appealed to residents not to spread any caste-related rumours about the incident.

The deceased was identified as Hariom, a resident of neighbouring Fatehpur district. Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai on Monday visited Hariom's family and claimed that the victim was beaten up when he took Rahul Gandhi's name. He alleged that "jungle raj" was prevailing in the state. Gandhi spoke to the victim's brother on phone and assured him of all support.

According to the police, residents in several villages in the Unchahar police station area have been keeping night vigils following rumours that drone surveillance was being used to orchestrate thefts.

On Wednesday night, some villagers became suspicious after seeing a man moving near the Jamunapur crossing and started questioning him, the police said. When the victim failed to respond to their queries, the villagers allegedly thrashed him brutally, suspecting him of being a thief.

Eyewitnesses told the police that the mob dragged the victim to the Ishwardaspur railway station and left him there in a critical condition.

On Thursday morning, villagers found his body lying near the railway track, according to the police. His clothes were torn, and there were multiple injury marks on his body.

The police said by the time they reached the spot, the man was lying in a pool of blood and had succumbed to his injuries.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sanjeev Kumar Sinha said that a case of murder has been registered, and five accused have been arrested.

Efforts are on to identify and arrest the remaining culprits, he said.

Sub-Inspector Kamal Singh Yadav and constables Pradeep Kumar and Abhishek Kumar have been suspended for alleged negligence, Sinha said.

He said the accused come from different social backgrounds, including Dalit and backward castes, and appealed to residents not to spread any caste-related rumours about the incident.

He urged the public to maintain peace and cooperate with the police, assuring strict action against those involved in the killing.

The Congress said the incident shows that law and order has "completely collapsed" in Uttar Pradesh and demanded Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's resignation as well as an SIT probe into the killing.

The opposition party also demanded compensation of Rs 1 crore for the victim's family and a government job for one of its members.

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai spent around 25 minutes with the victim's parents and wife.

Hariom's brother Shivam told reporters that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had spoken to their father Gangadeen.

"Rahul said, 'Don't worry, the Congress family is with you. I will try my best to help.' He also asked about my father's health," Shivam said.

"I told him that everyone calls on the phone, but when someone comes forward in person, that's when we truly know who stands with us," Shivam added.

Speaking to reporters, Rai attacked the Adityanath government.

"The youth was beaten mercilessly. This shows that this is a jungle raj government," Rai said.

Responding to claims that Hariom was targeted for taking Rahul Gandhi's name during the assault, Rai said, "Yes, the accused said, 'When that boy took Rahul ji's name, they beat him even more.' Every Congress worker, every 'Babbar Sher' of Rahul Gandhi, stands with this family. Our leader has personally spoken to them. We will ensure justice."

Rai also alleged that the police were present at the scene but failed to intervene. "Instead of taking him to the police station, they left him to die," he claimed.

He added that the family has demanded strict action against the accused, Rs 1 crore compensation, and a government job for one member. *—PTI*

In a video, villagers are seen brutally beating Hariom, a resident of Fatehpur, on suspicion of theft **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

'MAN-MADE DISASTER'

Darjeeling tragedy: Environmentalists blame unplanned urbanisation

Environmentalists described the landslides in Darjeeling as a "man-made ecological disaster", the inevitable outcome of decades of deforestation, unplanned urbanisation and poor governance that have pushed the fragile Himalayan slopes to the brink.

They said the way forward lies in decentralised disaster planning, strict enforcement of construction norms, and climate-sensitive development to prevent the 'Queen of the Hills' from turning into a recurring disaster zone.

The picturesque Darjeeling hills, long a refuge for weary travellers, now bear the scars of nature's fury. Twelve hours of relentless rain triggered a chain of deadly landslides that killed over 20 people and left scores homeless.

The serene slopes have turned into sites of wreckage and despair, a grim reminder that nature's retribution often follows human neglect.

Environmentalists and experts who have long warned of such a catastrophe said this was not an unpredictable calamity, but the result of years of ecological exploitation and administrative apathy.

"The hills are paying for decades of neglect, deforestation, unplanned roads, and reckless construction have made the terrain unstable. The rain is only the trigger; the real cause is how we have treated the mountains," said environmentalist Sujit Raha, a member of the North Bengal Science Centre.

"There is no proper disaster management plan in place to tackle such crises. The administration and authorities must take this problem seriously and not treat it as an annual tragedy," he said.

Unchecked urban growth, poor drainage systems and hill-cutting for construction altered Darjeeling's ecosystem beyond recognition, he added.

Disaster management expert Shailendra Mani Pradhan, a professor at Sarojini Naidu College for Women in Kolkata, said the landslides were a direct fallout of unregulated development in one of the country's most ecologically sensitive zones.

"Darjeeling lies in a high seismic area and is naturally prone to landslides. Yet, infrastructure development for tourism and housing continues without any adherence to building bylaws or drainage norms. The terrain is being pushed to its limits," he said.

He pointed out that the rampant construction of multi-storey buildings on unstable slopes, particularly in Mirik, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Darjeeling towns, has increased the risk manifold.

He called for decentralisation of disaster management, saying that while national and state-level frameworks exist, "district-level disaster management committees remain largely non-functional".

"People must be sensitised to the ecological risks of violating construction norms. Around 70–80 per cent of land in Darjeeling Municipality has been allotted for residential purposes, which is unsustainable," he said.

Environmental scholar Vimal Khawas said the tragedy fits a recurring pattern of extreme climatic events that have haunted the region for decades.

"What we are seeing now is not new, but the scale of devastation this time reflects both natural vulnerability and growing human pressure on a fragile Himalayan ecosystem," he said.

"Habitations have spread into marginal areas where construction should never have been allowed. Weak enforcement of land use regulations, especially after the Gorkhaland agitation, has led to rampant building and road expansion without adherence to safety norms," said Khawas, a professor at JNU's Special Centre for the Study of Northeast India.

He said the pattern of disasters seen in Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh reflects a larger Himalayan crisis driven by global climate change, compounded by local governance failures. He said Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), which administers the Darjeeling hills, lacks both expertise and infrastructure for disaster management.

"The plans are mostly drawn up in Kolkata without factoring in the local topography. What Darjeeling needs is a locally driven disaster preparedness plan linked with climate action and inter-departmental coordination, especially in managing water resources," he said.

Environmental activist Subhas Dutta said the recurring landslides underline the need for a long-term environmental management plan for the entire north Bengal-Sikkim belt. "The continuous soil erosion in the hills is causing stones and sand to flow down into the plains, raising the riverbeds and disturbing their natural course. As a result, many riverbeds now lie higher than the surrounding inhabited areas, increasing the risk of floods," he explained.

Environmental expert Satyadeep Chhetri warned that the eastern Himalayas have moved "from climate change to the climate crisis" phase, urging relocation of habitations from high-risk zones and rehabilitation of affected families.

"The refilled South Lhonak glacial lake poses a renewed threat, and the shift of extreme rainfall to September-October signals a dangerous new climatic pattern for the region," he said. Chetri claimed that large-scale hill-cutting for highways and the ongoing construction of the railway line to Rangpo have destabilised the terrain. The recent disaster bears grim echoes of the October 1968 deluge, when nearly 1,000 people perished as continuous downpours washed away entire settlements across the hills and plains. *—PTI*

The picturesque Darjeeling hills, long a refuge for weary travellers, now bear the scars of nature's fury. The serene slopes have turned into sites of wreckage **PHOTO: PTI**

20 injured as man goes on shooting rampage in Sydney

SYDNEY, 6 OCT

A 60-year-old man is in custody after allegedly firing dozens of rounds from a restaurant rooftop into a busy Inner West street in Sydney on Sunday evening, injuring twenty people. New South Wales Police said officers responded after multiple reports of gunfire and engaged the suspect, who was later taken to hospital following injuries sustained during the arrest. Acting Superintendent Stephen Parry said anywhere between fifty and one hundred shots were fired. Witnesses described utter chaos as windshields and bus-stop glass shattered and pedestrians fled for cover. One man self-presented to hospital with a gunshot wound and remains in a serious condition; a further nineteen were treated for shrapnel and lacerations, several requiring admission. *—Agencies*

Australia, Papua Guinea seal historic defence pact

MELBOURNE, 6 OCT

Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have signed a landmark bilateral defence treaty, committing to mutual assistance if either nation faces armed attack. Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese and James Marape hailed the agreement as historic, making PNG Australia's closest ally outside the 1951 ANZUS pact. The treaty, pending parliamentary ratification, will allow unprecedented military cooperation and joint training. Canberra and Washington see the pact as a key move to counter China's expanding influence in the Pacific. Beijing's embassy in PNG warned the deal should not exclude others or target third parties. Marape reaffirmed PNG's "friends to all, enemy to none" policy, saying the treaty strengthens regional security and mutual trust. *—PTI*

Indonesia school collapse: Toll rises to 60, 14 missing

SIDOARJO, 6 OCT

The death toll from a boarding school collapse on Indonesia's Java island has risen to 60, as rescuers recovered dozens of student bodies over the weekend. Fourteen students remain missing after the two-storey prayer hall at the Al Khoziny Islamic school in Sidoarjo caved in on 29 September, trapping hundreds of boys aged 12 to 19. Police said two extra floors were added illegally without permits, causing the structure to fail under wet concrete. The collapse has triggered national outrage over poor building standards. Construction experts confirmed the hall was unsafe for occupancy during work. *—PTI*

King with 15 wives, 100 staff disrupts Abu Dhabi airport

ABU DHABI, 6 OCT

King Mswati III of Eswatini arrived in Abu Dhabi on 10 July with 15 wives, 30 children and more than 100 attendants, a spectacle that quickly drew widespread online attention and debate. The monarch, Africa's last absolute ruler, touched down aboard a private jet, temporarily disrupting airport operations as three terminals were closed for security. Dressed in traditional leopard-print regalia, King Mswati led his colourful entourage, impressing onlookers. Officially, the visit aimed to explore trade and investment opportunities with UAE leaders, but public focus shifted to his estimated $1 billion fortune, highlighting stark contrasts with widespread poverty in Eswatini. Social media users joked that "an entire village had arrived". *—Agencies*

US shutdown enters 2nd week as mass layoffs loom

Trump threatens Dems, says mass layoffs have already begun

WASHINGTON, 6 OCT

- Democrats are insisting on renewing subsidies to cover health insurance costs for millions of households.

The US government shutdown entered its second week on Monday, with no sign of a deal between President Donald Trump's Republicans and Senate Democrats to end the crisis. Trump said that the layoffs he has threatened were already occurring.

The shutdown has now tied as the fourth-longest in US history, matching a 1995 shutdown. Federal workers face increasing uncertainty as negotiations stall.

The Senate is scheduled to reconvene on Monday at 3 pm EST, with a crucial vote on a stopgap funding measure expected around 5.30pm EST. The White House said that Trump would begin firing people if he sees that the talks were going nowhere.

Democrats are insisting on renewing subsidies to cover health insurance costs for millions of households, while Trump wants to preserve existing spending levels as he believes that Democrats will have to cave because of the jobs and federal projects being put at risk.

The government has reportedly been out of money since Wednesday and is grinding to a halt.

Asked on Sunday night when federal workers would be fired as he has threatened to do, Trump told reporters: "It's taking place right now and it's all because of the Democrats."

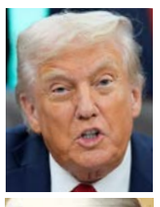
"The Democrats are causing the loss of a lot of jobs," Trump added, declining to answer a question about which agencies are subject to the cuts.

The possibility of layoffs would escalate an already tense situation in which Washington lawmakers have struggled to find common ground and build mutual trust. Leaders in both parties are betting that public sentiment has swung their way, putting pressure on the other side to cave. Democrats are insisting on renewing subsidies to cover health insurance costs for millions of households, while Trump wants to preserve existing spending levels as he believes that Democrats will have to cave. —Agencies

Don: Warned govt about Osama 1 year before 9/11

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 6 OCT

US President Donald Trump said that he had asked authorities to keep track of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden one year before the 9/11 attack, and went on to add that the "fake news would never let me get away with that statement unless it was true".



"Please remember I wrote about Osama bin Laden exactly one year before he blew up the World Trade Centre. And I said, 'You got to watch Osama bin Laden'," Trump said during a special celebration to mark the US Navy's 250th birthday. "But I said one year before... that I saw somebody named Osama bin Laden and I didn't like it. And you got to take care of him."

"They didn't do it. A year later, he blew up the World Trade Centre," the US President said. "So (I) got to take a little credit, because nobody else is going to give it to me. You know the old story, they don't give you credit. Just take it yourself."

Trump also praised the US Navy SEALs, saying that history will never forget it was this special American force that stormed into bin Laden's compound in Pakistan and "put a bullet in his head". *—PTI*

Redistricting vote begins in California

Voting opened statewide in California on Monday on whether to reshape its congressional districts to add as many as five Democrat-held seats in Congress — something Governor Gavin Newsom claimed was a response to Trump's moves in Texas and elsewhere to help Republicans in 2026 election.

Good idea: Trump on Putin's nuke treaty plan

Trump said that Russian President Vladimir Putin's idea of the New START Treaty was a good one. On 22 Sept, Putin stated that Russia was prepared to continue adhering to the treaty's restrictions for another year after the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) expires in February.

Israel, Hamas talk ceasefire in Egypt

CAIRO, 6 OCT

Israeli and Hamas officials are meeting in an Egyptian resort on Monday in hopes of hammering out a potential ceasefire in Gaza on the eve of the second anniversary.

The indirect negotiations will take place in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where the Israeli delegation, headed by top negotiator Ron Dermer, is set to arrive Monday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

Hamas' delegation, headed by Khalil al-Hayyah, arrived on Sunday in Egypt, the group said.

It said the negotiations will focus on the first stage of a ceasefire, including the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces as well as the release of hostages held by the militants in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli detention.

The talks in Egypt are expected to move fast as Netanyahu said they would be "confined to a few days maximum," though some Hamas officials have warned more time may be needed to locate the bodies of hostages buried under rubble.

> **I am asking everyone to move fast. I will continue to monitor this centuries old "conflict." Time is of the essence or, massive bloodshed will follow – something that nobody wants to see!**
>
> —Donald Trump, US President

US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner are also expected to join the talks.

Trump had earlier threatened Hamas with "Complete Obliteration!" if it remained in power, according to CNN.

ISRAEL CONTINUES ITS ATTACKS

Gaza's Civil Defence said 24 Palestinians were killed in the last 24 hours.

The Israeli military said Monday that it eliminated "a terrorist cell armed with explosive devices and mortars" that on Sunday intended to attack Israeli soldiers. *—PTI*

A fire erupts as Israel conducts ground and air operations in the northern Gaza Strip *PHOTO: PTI*

Israel denies torturing Greta, Flotilla activists

Israel's Foreign Ministry on Sunday flatly rejected claims that Greta Thunberg and other activists detained from the Gaza-bound flotilla were being mistreated or tortured in prison, calling the reports "brazen lies" and insisting that "all the detainees' legal rights are fully upheld." The ministry said Thunberg "did not complain to the Israeli authorities about any of these ludicrous and baseless allegations--because they never occurred."

US, UK selling drones to Russia: Zelenskyy

KYIV, 6 OCT

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the Russian drones to attack Ukraine on 5 Oct contained foreign made components from several ally countries, including the US, the UK, Germany and Switzerland. At least five people were killed by the Russian attacks on Sunday.

"Russia used 549 weapon systems containing 1,02,785 foreign-made components — from companies in the United States, China and Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the Netherlands," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

"In particular, companies in the US manufacture converters for Kh-101 missiles and Shahed/Geran-type drones, sensors for those UAVs and for Kinzhal missiles, analogue-to-digital converters for drones and missiles, and microelectronics for missiles. At least 50 different microelectronic components in each Shahed are produced in China and Taiwan," he added. "Microcontrollers for UAVs are made in Switzerland, while microcomputers for drone flight control are produced in the United Kingdom. Optoisolators for cruise missiles come from Japan, switching connectors from Germany. "

Zelenskyy said that "partners already possess detailed data" on each of the companies and said "Ukraine is preparing new sanctions against those who help Russia and its war".

He hoped the upcoming G7 sanctions coordination meet later this week would provide a "systemic" solution to ensure that the "sanctions are truly effective". *—Salar News*

1 dead, 137 rescued after blizzard hits Mt Everest

BEIJING, 6 OCT

One hiker has tragically died while 137 others have been rescued following a blizzard on the Tibetan slopes of Mt Everest, local Chinese officials reported on Monday. The 41-year-old man succumbed to hypothermia and acute altitude sickness, according to the state-run Xinhua news agency.

During the current eight-day national holiday, which commenced on 1 October, over 100 hiking enthusiasts ventured towards the Laohugou region of Menyuan Hui Autonomous County in Qinghai Province, only to be stranded by continuous snowfall. The Laohugou area, part of the Qilian Mountains, is known for its challenging terrain with altitudes exceeding 4,000m.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing, with over 300 personnel mobilised, utilising more than 10 teams on horseback and two drones. Reports indicate that while 350 hikers have been rescued, some remain unaccounted for.

Eyewitness accounts describe dire conditions, with one woman from Shenzhen sharing, "My husband called asking for help. They were stranded at Oga Campsite as heavy snow fell." Despite the dangerous situation, locals, including villagers and guides, have joined the rescue efforts. The woman added, "I hope [his] team reaches them safely," after her husband's group faced significant challenges retreating through the deep snow. *—PTI*

French PM resigns day after naming new govt

PARIS, 6 OCT

France's new Prime Minister, Sebastien Lecornu, resigned on Monday, just a day after naming his government and after less than a month in office.

The French Presidency said in a statement that President Emmanuel Macron has accepted his resignation.

Lecornu's choice of ministers had been criticised across the political spectrum, particularly his decision to bring back former finance minister Bruno Le Maire to serve at the Defence Ministry.

Other key positions remained largely unchanged from the previous cabinet, with conservative Bruno Retailleau staying on as interior minister, in charge of policing and internal security, Jean-Noel Barrot remaining as foreign minister, and Gerald Darmanin keeping the justice ministry.

Seeking consensus at the deeply fractured National Assembly, Lecornu had announced that he would not employ a special constitutional power his predecessors used to force a budget through parliament without a vote and would instead seek a compromise with lawmakers from the left and the right. *—PTI*

ANCIENT TREASURE LOST

Pharaonic painting vanishes from Egypt

CAIRO, 6 OCT

Egyptian antiquities officials on Sunday said a Pharaonic painting has disappeared from the famed Saqqara necropolis just outside of Cairo, becoming the latest artefact to disappear in a country known for its rich history.

Mohamed Ismail, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the limestone painting was in the tomb of Khentika in the Saqqara necropolis.

The mastaba tomb, which housed the painting, was found in the 1950s and dates back to the sixth dynasty of the ancient Old Kingdom — a period spanning roughly from around 2700 BC to 2200 BC. The tomb hasn't opened since 2019, he said in a statement.

Ismail's statement didn't provide further details and said prosecutors were investigating the circumstances of the painting's disappearance. However, Cairo 24 news outlet said that a British mission working in the tomb found that the painting wasn't there in May.

Egyptian media reported that the painting exhibited the ancient Egyptian calendar which divided the year into three seasons mirroring the Nile River's ebb and flow. It included the flooding season, Akhet, the planting season, Proyat, and the harvest season, Shomu.

The tomb was one of the few mastaba tombs of ancient Egypt to have a written curse inscribed on its facade.

Saqqara site is part of a sprawling necropolis at Egypt's ancient capital of Memphis that includes the famed Giza Pyramids, the step pyramid of Djoser, as well as smaller pyramids at Abu Sir, Dahshur and Abu Ruwaysh. The ruins of Memphis were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in the 1970s.

Sunday's announcement came less than a month after an ancient bracelet, which belonged to Pharaoh Amenemope, was stolen from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. *—PTI*

This 4,000-year-old limestone painting housed in a tomb at Egypt's Saqqara necropolis has gone missing – making it the second ancient Egyptian artefact to be reported stolen in less than a month

- Egyptian media reported that the painting exhibited the ancient Egyptian calendar which divided the year into three seasons mirroring the Nile River's ebb and flow.

Ola Electric's rare earth-free motor gets govt nod

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Ola Electric on Monday announced that it has become the first electric two-wheeler maker to receive government certification for its indigenously developed rare-earth-free ferrite motor. Certified by the Global Automotive Research Centre, Tamil Nadu, the motor cleared all performance and power tests under AIS 041 standards issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Ola said the ferrite motor matches the performance of rare-earth permanent magnet motors in its 7kW and 11kW variants, while reducing costs and eliminating import dependency. Introduced in August, the new motor will be integrated across the company's products to boost performance. —*PTI*

Kalyan Jewellers reports 30% revenue surge

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Kalyan Jewellers on Monday reported a 30 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated revenue for the second quarter of this fiscal year, driven by strong festive and wedding demand. The company reported a consolidated net revenue of Rs 60,914.76 crore for the second quarter (July-September) of the 2024-25 fiscal. India operations grew 31 per cent with a 16 per cent same-store sales increase, while global operations rose 17 per cent, led by a 10 per cent revenue rise in the Middle East. The jeweller opened 15 Kalyan and 15 Candere showrooms in India and two in the Middle East during the quarter. Candere's revenue surged 127 per cent year-on-year. Kalyan Jewellers now operates 436 showrooms across brands. —*PTI*

Monitoring panel to track Jharia coalfield fire

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

A monitoring committee will be set-up to oversee the implementation of the Rs 5,940-crore revised Jharia Master Plan (JMP) to tackle coalfield fires and rehabilitate affected families, Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt has informed the Jharkhand government. The committee, co-chaired by the Coal Secretary and Jharkhand Chief Secretary, will regularly track progress, with priority given to strengthening the Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA). The revised plan, approved in June, emphasises sustainable livelihoods, skill development, income-generating opportunities, and a livelihood grant of Rs 1 lakh with credit support up to Rs 3 lakh for rehabilitated families. Infrastructure and community facilities will be developed at resettlement sites. Coal mining in Jharia dates to 1916, and past unscientific mining has caused fires, subsidence, and environmental hazards. —*PTI*

ONGC to invest ₹8,110 cr in Andhra

HYDERABAD, 6 OCT

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) will invest Rs 8,110 crore in Andhra Pradesh to develop and produce oil and gas from 172 onshore wells across eight Production Mining Licence (PML) blocks. The project has received environmental clearance from the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. ONGC's investment includes Rs 172 crore for its Environment Management Plan (EMP) and an annual recurring cost of Rs 91.16 crore. Wells will not be established within 10 km of the eco-sensitive Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, and no pipelines may be laid in forest or protected areas without prior approval from the competent authority, ensuring biodiversity protection. —*PTI*

Services growth cools in Sept after 15-year high

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Growth in India's services sector slowed in September, easing from August's 15-year high, as softer demand curtailed output and inflation pressures, according to the latest HSBC India Services PMI survey.

The seasonally adjusted Business Activity Index fell to 60.9, down from 62.9 in August. Despite the moderation, the reading remained well above the neutral 50.0 mark, signalling continued substantial expansion.

HSBC's Chief India Economist, Pranjul Bhandari, said the slowdown reflected softer improvements in new business, increased competitive conditions, and milder international demand for Indian services.

Companies reported slower export order growth due to the availability of lower-priced services elsewhere. The pace of cost inflation was modest, the slowest since March, contributing to weaker increases in prices charged for services. Job creation also moderated, with fewer than five per cent of firms reporting employment growth in September.

Despite the softer indicators, business sentiment strengthened, reaching a six-month high. Companies cited efficiency gains, competitive pricing strategies, advertising, and anticipated tax cuts as reasons for optimism about the year ahead.

At the broader level, India's private sector continued to expand, though new orders, international sales, and overall business activity showed slower growth. The HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index, which combines manufacturing and services, slipped to 61.0 from 63.2 in August, marking the weakest expansion since June. Nevertheless, the figure remained comfortably above its long-run average, indicating that robust growth in the private sector continues despite moderation in September. —*PTI*

Tata Capital launches 2025's biggest IPO of Rs 15,512 cr

It was subscribed 39% on Day 1 for shares priced ₹310 to ₹326

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Tata Capital Ltd began accepting bids on Monday for its Rs 15,512 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO), aiming to raise up to 1.55 lakh crore ($1.7 billion). This marks India's largest listing of 2025 and could help push IPO proceeds to a record high this October, expected to surpass $5 billion.

Shares of the Tata Group's non-banking financial company (NBFC) are priced between Rs 310 and Rs 326 and will be available for subscription until 8 October. At the upper end, the IPO values Tata Capital at nearly Rs 1.4 lakh crore ($15.7 billion), more than double the market capitalisation of HDB Financial Services, which listed earlier this year.

On Day 1, the IPO got bids for 12,86,08,916 shares against 33,34,36,996 shares on offer, according to details available with the NSE.

The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 52 per cent, while the category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 35 per cent subscription. The portion meant for non-institutional investors attracted 29 per cent subscription.The Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) portion was subscribed 29 per cent, Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) at 19 per cent, and Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) at 12 per cent.

Ahead of the IPO, Tata Capital raised Rs 4,642 crore from 68 domestic and global institutional investors through its anchor book, which saw nearly 5x demand. The offer comprises a fresh issue of 21 crore shares and an Offer for Sale of 26.58 crore shares. Tata Sons will offload 23 crore shares, and the International Finance Corporation will sell 3.58 crore shares. Tata Sons currently holds 88.6 per cent in Tata Capital, while IFC owns 1.8 per cent. The proceeds will be used to strengthen the company's Tier-1 capital base and support future capital needs, including onward lending.

This is Tata Group's second listing in recent years after Tata Technologies debuted in November 2023. The IPO follows RBI's mandate requiring upper-layer NBFCs, including Tata Capital (classified in Sept 2022), to list within three years.

Tata Capital's stock is set to debut on 13 October. —*PTI*

7 IPOs worth over ₹30,000 cr to open this week

The week starting 6 October 2025 is set to be the busiest ever for India's primary market, with seven IPOs aiming to raise over Rs 30,000 crore.

Tata Capital launched its Rs 15,512 crore IPO on Monday. It will be followed by LG Electronics India's Rs 11,607 crore IPO, open for subscription from 7 to 9 October with a price band of Rs 1,080–1,140 per share. Pharmaceutical company Rubicon Research will open its Rs 1,377.50 crore IPO on 9 October.

The issue comprises a fresh issue worth Rs 500 crore and an OFS of Rs 877.50 crore by General Atlantic Singapore RR Pte. The price band is set at Rs 461–485 per share. Canara Robeco Asset Management Company's 4.98 crore-share IPO will also open on 9 October, followed by Canara HSBC Life Insurance's 23.75 crore-share issue on 10 October.

Anantam Highways Trust will raise Rs 400 crore through an InvIT IPO, with a price band of Rs 98–100.

In the SME segment, Mittal Sections will raise Rs 52.91 crore from 7 to 9 October at a price band of Rs 136–143.

WeWork India's Rs 3,000 crore IPO will close on 7 October. —*ANI*

TUSSEL OVER DIRECTOR

Tata Trusts' rift spurs govt intervention

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The Central Government is reportedly stepping in to address turbulence at Tata Sons, India's most valuable conglomerate, amid internal disputes and an expired Reserve Bank of India (RBI) listing mandate.

Tata Trusts, the majority shareholder, is at odds over nominating a director to the board.

Two senior Cabinet ministers are expected to meet Tata officials in New Delhi, including Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata, Vice-Chairman Venu Srinivasan, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, and Trustee Darius Khambata.

The rift within Tata Trusts, which controls 65.3 per cent of Tata Sons, surfaced over the reappointment of nominee Vijay Singh, who later resigned. Four trustees opposed the move, citing lack of transparency, and questioned approvals for key board decisions, including independent director Anita Marangoly George's appointment.

The dispute delays filling at least three Tata Trusts seats on the Tata Sons board.

Meanwhile, RBI's directive for Tata Sons to list publicly expired on 30 September. Tata Sons requested removal of its upper-layer NBFC classification, pending RBI approval.

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group, holding 18.38 per cent, has pushed for listing to access liquidity for debt obligations. Talks between Tata Sons and SP Group are reportedly underway to facilitate the latter's exit.

With internal conflicts intensifying and the IPO mandate unresolved, the government's intervention aims to stabilise governance and safeguard shareholder interests. —*Agencies*

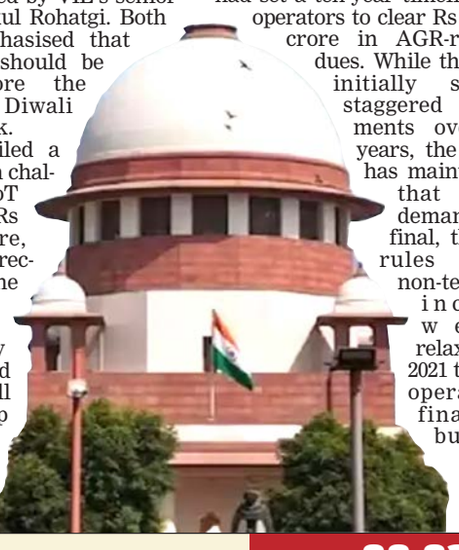
SC defers Vodafone Idea AGR hearing

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The Supreme Court has deferred the hearing on a plea by telecom major Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) seeking to quash additional Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) demands for the financial year 2016–17 to 13 October. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, requested the deferral before a bench led by Chief Justice B R Gavai, a submission supported by VIL's senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi. Both parties emphasised that the matter should be heard before the upcoming Diwali judicial break.

VIL has filed a fresh petition challenging a DoT demand of Rs 5,606 crore, seeking a directive for the department to "comprehensively re-assess and reconcile" all AGR dues up to FY 2016–17 in line with the February, 2020 'Deduction Verification Guidelines'. The government, which now holds nearly 50 per cent equity in VIL, is reportedly exploring a possible resolution to safeguard the company's viability.

The dispute follows a 2021 Supreme Court ruling that rejected pleas from telecom operators, including VIL, to rectify alleged arithmetical errors in AGR dues calculations. In September, 2020, the apex court had set a ten-year timeline for operators to clear Rs 93,520 crore in AGR-related dues. While the DoT initially sought staggered payments over 20 years, the court has maintained that the demand is final, though rules on non-telecom income were relaxed in 2021 to ease operators' financial burden. —*PTI*



US PHARMA MAJOR ELI LILLY TO INVEST $1 BN IN TELANGANA

HYDERABAD, 6 OCT

US pharma major Eli Lilly would invest USD 1 bn in Telangana to expand its manufacturing and global medicine supply capacity, the government said on Monday.

The announcement was made after the company's global delegation met Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu at the Integrated Command Control Centre on Monday.

A new manufacturing plant and quality centre would be set up, creating huge job opportunities for Telangana's youth.

Despite strong interest from several states, Eli Lilly chose Telangana owing to its favourable ecosystem in terms of availability of highly skilled manpower, infrastructure, and support from the government. The company will begin recruitment immediately for the Hyderabad location, with openings across roles such as engineers, chemists, analytical scientists, quality control and assurance professionals, and management positions, the release added. —*PTI*

Sensex up 583 pts, Nifty crosses 25K

MUMBAI, 6 OCT

Stock markets rallied for the third consecutive day on Monday, with benchmark Sensex climbing 583 points and the Nifty reclaiming the 25,000-level following value buying in IT and financial shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 582.95 points or 0.72 per cent to settle at 81,790.12. During the day, it zoomed 639.25 points or 0.78 per cent to 81,846.42.

The 50-share NSE Nifty surged by 183.40 points or 0.74 per cent to 25,077.65. Nifty advanced 466 points or 1.89 per cent in three sessions to regain the 25,000 level on Monday on value buying by investors.

Among Sensex firms, TCS, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Eternal, Infosys, and Kotak Bank were the major gainers. However, Tata Steel, and Adani Ports were among the laggards. —*PTI*

Airtel to secure Indian Railways digital systems

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Airtel Business, the enterprise division of Bharti Airtel, has won a multi-year contract to design, build, implement and operate the Indian Railway Security Operations Centre (IRSOC). The project will create a greenfield, multi-layered cybersecurity ecosystem to safeguard Indian Railways' vast IT infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted, secure digital operations across the network.

The initiative will provide centralised security controls to protect the railway's expansive database and digital systems, covering 1,60,000 employees across 26 locations. The cybersecurity stack will integrate advanced technologies, including 'Make in India' products, and feature AI-enabled tools to create a compliant, sovereign system tailored for critical infrastructure protection.

Railways operates over 13,000 trains daily, handling millions of digital transactions. Securing sensitive passenger, employee and operational data is vital amid rising cyber threats. Dilip Kumar, EDIP – Railway Board, said IRSOC will monitor assets, detect threats, and coordinate with National Cyber Security Agencies to ensure operational resilience and safeguard passenger interests. —*PTI*

88.82 AGAINST USD

Rupee falls 3P to hit lifetime low

MUMBAI, 6 OCT

The rupee closed at an all-time low of 88.82 against the US dollar on Monday, slipping 3 paise due to a stronger greenback and rising crude oil prices overseas.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.75 and settled at 88.82, 3 paise lower than Friday's close of 88.79. This marks the rupee's weakest-ever closing, surpassing the previous low of 88.80 on 30 September.

According to traders, the rupee remained range-bound as gains from positive domestic equities were offset by persistent capital outflows and geopolitical uncertainties.

The US dollar index, which measures the dollar's strength against a basket of six major currencies, rose 0.73 per cent to 98.43. Meanwhile, Brent crude climbed 1.61 per cent to USD 65.58 per barrel, adding pressure on the rupee.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the rupee may trade with a slight positive bias, supported by strong domestic markets and softening crude prices, though importer demand for dollars could cap gains. The USD/INR pair is expected to trade in the 88.50–89 range.

On the equities front, the Sensex jumped 582.95 points to close at 81,790.12, while the Nifty rose 183.40 points to 25,077.65. However, foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 1,583.37 crore on Friday.

India's forex reserves declined by USD 2.334 billion to USD 700.236 billion for the week ending 26 September, as per RBI data.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Services PMI fell to 60.9 in September from a 15-year high of 62.9 in August, indicating a slight cooling in services sector growth amid rising competition and cost control. —*PTI*

Gold price soars ₹9,700 to storm past ₹1.3L/10g

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Gold prices skyrocketed by Rs 9,700 to scale a fresh peak of Rs 1,30,300 per 10g in the national capital on Monday, lifted by safe-haven buying in the overseas markets and depreciation in the rupee.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,20,600 per 10g on Friday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 2,700 to hit a record high of Rs 1,22,700 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. It had settled at Rs 1,20,000 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Silver prices also witnessed robust gains. The white metal bounced by Rs 7,400 to hit a new peak of Rs 1,57,400 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). It had ended at Rs 1,50,000 per kg on Friday.

In the international markets, spot gold rose nearly 2 per cent to touch an all-time high of USD 3,949.58 per ounce, while silver went up over 1 per cent to hit a high of USD 48.75 per ounce. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Sidra reprimanded for ICC Code of Conduct breach

COLOMBO, 6 OCT

Pakistan batter Sidra Amin was on Monday reprimanded and handed one demerit point by the ICC for breaching its Level 1 of Code of Conduct during the Women's World Cup match against India here.Amin waged a lone battle for Pakistan in a one-sided contest with a knock of 81 before her team was bowled out for 159 in reply to India's 247 at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday. Pakistan lost the match by 88 runs."Sidra was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match'," the ICC said in a media release.—*PTI*

Joakim names 23-member squad for 2026 AFC U17

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Indian U17 women's football team head coach Joakim Alexandersson on Monday named a 23-member squad for the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers, scheduled to be held from 13 to 17 October in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Placed in a three-team Group G, India will face hosts Kyrgyz Republic on 13 October and Uzbekistan on 17 October. The group winners will qualify for the 12-team final tournament in China next year. After winning the SAFF U-17 Women's Championship in Bhutan in August, the Young Tigresses continued their training camp in Bengaluru before shifting base to Goa. They will reach Bishkek on Tuesday, six days before the first match, to get acclimatised to the relatively cooler weather in the Kyrgyz capital.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Karun Nair in Karnataka Ranji Trophy squad

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

India batter Karun Nair will turn out for Karnataka after a hiatus of two seasons as he has been named in the state squad for the opening Ranji Trophy match against Saurashtra, beginning in Rajkot from 15 October. Karun rejoined the state side ahead of this season from Vidarbha, where he played a major hand in the team's victorious Ranji Trophy campaign last season. The middle-order batter was earlier named in the probables. Mayank Agarwal will continue to lead Karnataka, who have named some new faces such as Kruthika Krishna, Shikhar Shetty, and Mohsin Khan.—*PTI*

Lanka Premier League to feature Indian players

COLOMBO, 6 OCT

The organisers of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) on Monday announced that Indian cricketers will feature in the tournament for the first time when its sixth edition begins on 1 December. This T20 event will feature 24 matches in total, including 20 league fixtures and 4 knockout games, spread across three premier venues R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, Colombo; Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy; and Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium, Dambulla. "For the very first time, Indian cricketers are expected to join the action; their names will be revealed soon.—*PTI*

Court must keep its hands off in sports-related matters: SC

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The Supreme Court on Monday said it is high time that it kept its hands off in matters related to sports, including cricket.

"There is nothing like sport now in cricket. It is a fact. It is all business," a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta observed.

The observation came from the bench while it was hearing a petition challenging a Madhya Pradesh High Court order in a matter about a cricket association for the Jabalpur division.

"Today, we are playing cricket. Three-four matters. One is already adjourned for the second round. This is the second one. There are two more. How many test matches will you play today?" Justice Nath asked the lawyers representing various sides in the matter. The petitioner's counsel said the country is obsessed with cricket. "I think it is high time that this court should keep its hands off in cricket and badminton, volleyball, basketball," Justice Nath said. The petitioner's counsel said these matters are coming up before the apex court because of certain concerns. "The issue is, the stakes have become very high in all of these matters," the counsel said, adding, "In any game, which has become commercialised, that is bound to happen." —*PTI*

We focus on building our own bubble: Jemimah

India is looking to lift their maiden World Cup trophy

COLOMBO, 6 OCT

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues says the team wants to win the ICC World Cup for all those who have contributed to the rise of the women's game in the country, and for that, the players are trying to stay away from "outside noise".

Co-hosts India are looking to lift their maiden World Cup trophy after finishing runners-up twice, and they have won both their league matches in the ongoing tournament, the latest one against Pakistan here on Sunday.

"We try to take it one day at a time and stay in the present. Even in our group conversations, we focus on building our own bubble because we know how much noise surrounds a World Cup," Jemimah said on Monday.

"Whether we do well or face challenges, we want to keep all that outside and create our own energy. Everyone in this team genuinely looks out for each other and celebrates each other's success. That comes so naturally and really strengthens our bond."

Jemimah Rodrigues *PHOTO: PTI*

Talking about the journey of women's cricket in India, she said, "When I first entered the team, Mithali di and Jhulan di were our seniors, and to now see the transition with Harman di and Smriti leading together is really special. They've created an environment where everyone wants to give their all for the team.

"We want to win it for those who paved the way, for Mithali di, Jhulan di (Jhulan Goswami), Neetu ma'am (Neetu David), and all those who helped bring women's cricket to where it is today (Sunday)," Jemimah, who made 32 against Pakistan, added.

She said both the pitches in Guwahati and Colombo have been slightly challenging for the batters, especially the one used for Sunday's game in the Sri Lankan capital.

"The pitch had been under covers, and the ball was gripping a bit early on. The spinners bowled really well, so we knew we had to adapt, take the game deep, and build partnerships. —*PTI*

I WANT TO BOWL FASTER: GOUD

COLOMBO, 6 OCT

Since bursting onto the international scene less than five months ago, Kranti Goud has swiftly evolved into India's go-to new ball weapon, and the youngster now wants to add more pace to her deliveries.

Her performance set up an emphatic 88-run victory and earned Goud her first Player-of-the-Match award at the very venue where she made her national debut in May this year.

"My India debut was also in Sri Lanka, and today I'm the Player of the Match here. It's a proud moment for me and my family. I'm very happy," she told reporters with a wide smile after the game. Our focus is on maintaining a consistent line and length, not trying to do too much. I'm comfortable with my pace at the moment, but I want to bowl faster." —*PTI*

ICC WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

All-round England favourites against Bangladesh

GUWAHATI, 6 OCT

With a line-up that features a plethora of seasoned campaigners, four-time champions England will start as overwhelming favourites when they face Bangladesh in their ICC Women's ODI World Cup league match here on Tuesday.

Both teams are coming off convincing wins in their respective tournament openers. Bangladesh has beaten Pakistan by seven wickets, and England smashed South Africa by 10 wickets after bundling them out for 69.

However, if one emphasises quality and options at disposal, then England are far ahead of their Asian opponents.

With players of the calibre of Tammy Beaumont, Amy Jones, Heather Knight, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Bell, and Sophia Dunkley forming the nucleus of the side, the English look miles ahead. These are very big names in the women's game globally and are familiar with the challenges of competing in events like the World Cup.

On the other hand, players such as Nigar Sultana, who doubles up as skipper and wicketkeeper, Rubya Haider, Nishita Akter Nishi, and Sumaiya Akter are carrying Bangladesh's hopes in the showpiece.

England vs Bangladesh Match starts at 3.00 pm IST

But as a team, it is not as experienced or formidable as the English squad that is gunning for a fifth title triumph, having last won the tournament in 2017.

Having routed South Africa at the same venue four days ago and trained here for a while in the run-up to their tournament-opener, traditional powerhouse England have become familiar with the conditions in this part of the world. —*PTI*

WORLD JUNIOR CH'SHIPS

India off to flying start; Sri Lanka edge UAE in thriller

GUWAHATI, 30 OCT

Hosts India kicked off their mixed team campaign in the Suhandinata Cup with a commanding win over neighbours Nepal, while Sri Lanka stunned the UAE in a nail-biting finish on the opening day of the BWF World Junior Championships here on Monday.

India, seeded second, experimented with their line-up but still sailed through 45-18, 45-17 in their Group H opener, while Sri Lanka took advantage of the changes made by UAE to win 30-45, 45-34, 45-44.

All other top countries, including 14-time champions China, former champions Indonesia, and South Korea, had little problem beating their respective opponents in straight sets to get their campaign rolling.

The mixed team championships are being played under a new best-of-three relay-scoring format. Each tie will be contested for the best of three sets up to 45 points, with each set comprising five matches – one each in men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. Teams are also allowed to change their players for each set.

India took advantage of these substitution rules to give most of their players a chance to get some match experience as they played a different combination in all three doubles and other players in singles in the two sets against Nepal. —*PTI*

Zverev knocked out by France's Rinderknech

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

SHANGHAI MASTERS

World number 3 Alexander Zverev was knocked out of the Shanghai Masters by France's Arthur Rinder knech 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Monday, leaving Novak Djokovic as the tournament's top-ranked player.In stifling conditions, the 54th-ranked Frenchman came back from a set down to stun an increasingly rattled Zverev into submission.

Rinderknech *PHOTO: X/@SM*

The German had injured his big toe towards the end of his last match in Shanghai, but on Monday seemed to show no sign of discomfort as he broke Rinderknech in the third game with a forehand.

He nearly went ahead early in the second set, but Rinderknech recovered his cool, piling on the pressure in the fourth game to eventually break."I'm not very sure (how I managed to turn the game around)," he said."I fought like hell, tried everything. (Zverev) is such a good player... I knew it was going to be a battle.—*PTI*

Dhanalakshmi tests positive for steroids, suspended

CHENNAI, 6 OCT

Sprinter Dhanalakshmi Sekar had tested positive a second time for the steroid drostanolone. Her sample in question was collected at the Indian Open athletics meet at Sangrur, Punjab, on 27 July. The Tamil Nadu athlete has been provisionally suspended with immediate effect.

Dhanalakshmi had come back from her earlier suspension on 17 July this year. Within ten days, she seemed to have fallen into the net cast by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). She clocked 11.55s in winning the 100m at Sangrur.

The proceedings will now move onwards as per regulations, including a hearing before the disciplinary panel and, if she is contesting the outcome of her positive test and prefers to place before the panel evidence to rebut NADA's claim, a series of possible hearings.

Dhanalakshmi *PHOTO: PTI*

Rohit agrees with BCCI's call to remove him as India ODI captain

MUMBAI, 6 OCT

The end is nigh. It's been there for a while. Let it befall now. The BCCI and its chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar's decision to remove Rohit Sharma as India's ODI captain and replace him with Shubman Gill is a sign of bigger things to come. Don't think, even for a solitary second, that this is it. With every word that came out of Agarkar's mouth, it became clearer and evident that Rohit and Virat Kohli's chances of playing the 2027 World Cup are slim. Age is one factor, of course. Rohit would be 40, and Kohli closing in on 39 by the time South Africa hosts the biggest cricketing tournament in the world. But the bigger concern for Ro-Ko is match practice.

Rohit Sharma *PHOTO: PTI*

Having retired from Tests and T20Is, the ODI is all Kohli and Rohit have in international cricket, and with time, the readiness and the willingness to be prepared for the World Cup in South Africa will only get more challenging.

In fact, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar reckons the selection committee took the right call in appointing Gill as captain and remains confident that Rohit himself would not disagree with the call.

> **Rohit Sharma's removal as India's ODI captain marks the beginning of more bad news**
>
> -Sunil Gavaskar, former Indian Captain

"We don't know whether Rohit Sharma will be ready for the 2027 World Cup. He only plays ODIs now, and if we see the international calendar, the Indian team isn't playing too many ODIs. Bilateral tours mostly include Tests and T20Is. If he only plays 5-7 ODIs in a year, he won't get that kind of practice, which you need for a big tournament like a World Cup.

If his place in the team isn't certain, the decision to prepare Shubman Gill was taken," Gavaskar told Sports Tak.Team comes from. Personally, he has done a lot to win us the Champions Trophy and the T20 World Cup before that. There's no two ways about his captaincy. —*PTI*

ARCTIC OPEN SUPER 500

Indians face stern tests in opening round

VANTAA, 6 OCT

Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth will continue their quest for a title this season as a strong Indian contingent competes in a tough field at the Arctic Open Super 500 badminton tournament, beginning here Tuesday.

Lakshya, runner-up at the Hong Kong Open this season, faces a stern test in the first round against fifth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

Sen, a 2021 World Championship bronze medallist, will need to strike a balance between aggression and restraint to tame Naraoka, who is solid in defence and will capitalise on loose play.

Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth *PHOTO: PTI*

Srikanth, who made a strong run to the final of the Malaysia Masters in 2025, opens against Rasmus Gemke. The veteran Indian, battling inconsistency through the season, must rely on his tactical variation, net control, and mid-court transitions to keep the Dane off balance.

Among India's younger players, Ayush Shetty, who claimed his maiden BWF title at the US Open Super 300 this year, faces top seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in a daunting opener. Tharun Mannepalli, fresh from a semifinal showing in the Macau Open Super 300, takes on French seventh seed Toma Junior Popov, a match that will test his composure and shot selection.

Kiran George, whose best result this year has been reaching the quarterfinals at the India Open, faces Koki Watanabe of Japan, while S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian squares off against third seed Christo Popov of France an uphill battle for the Indian. —*PTI*

Haaland extends hot streak as Man City sink Brentford

LONDON, 6 OCT

Erling Haaland extended his blistering start to the season as the Manchester City striker sealed a 1-0 win at Brentford on Sunday night. Haaland netted early in the first half in west London to give City a third win in their last four Premier League games. The peerless 25-year-old already has 12 goals in nine appearances in all competitions this season, plus six in two matches for Norway, with Tottenham the only team to stop him scoring in the current campaign.

City survived a second-half dip to move into fifth place in the Premier League.

"He has been so important this season for us, I would say. We need more goals from the other ones, but the chances were there," City boss Pep Guardiola said. Guardiola's side are unbeaten in their last seven games in all competitions since losing at Brighton in August.

City still trails leaders Arsenal by three points, but they go into the international break with renewed impetus after a slow start to the season. Manchester City striker Erling Haaland believes he is in the best form of his career, and the statistics show he might be right. —*PTI*

Erling Haaland *PHOTO: X/@MANCITY*